THE Valley INDEPENDENT
An edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Dismay for Bay

Jason Bay contends the Pirates are not ready to contend for the division title. **1B**

Valley Food

The Food Network's "Iron Chef" competition has found its way into American kitchens. **7-8A**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008 RELEVANT, RELIABLE WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 50¢

INSIDE TODAY

'Jubilation' inside

Read "Jubilation," a good news feature package that appears each month. **9B**

Border open

Hamas militants have knocked a second hole in the wall that separates the Gaza Strip from Egypt, and thousands poured through the portal. **5A**

SPORTS

BVA clinches title

Belle Vernon Area clinched a tie for the section title with a win over Thomas Jefferson. **1B**

Greyhounds win

Monessen is headed to the playoffs but needs one more win to nail down the section championship. **1B**

Trojans win again

With a close win over Mapletown, California Area collected a second straight section title. **1B**

DEATHS

- John Lutz, 90, Dravosburg, formerly of Monessen
- Mary M. Biagini, 81, Belle Vernon
- Reno Dongilli, 78, Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township)
- Norman Pendo, 82, North Belle Vernon
- Blanche Hope Lynn Steiner, 88, Maryville, Tenn.

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WEATHER

Today
Cloudy 32°
Tonight
Snow 22°

Page 2A

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Two sections, 20 Pages

MONDAY

Valley Weekend

Find out how Mon Valley residents spent their weekend.

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No checks for seniors?

Senate Democrats want to include retirees in a proposed economic stimulus plan.

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – Retirees living off Social Security are frustrated that they won't get tax rebate checks through a bipartisan economic stimulus package before the House.

Senate Democrats Friday began efforts to include them.

The Senate is also considering an extension of jobless benefits to the $150 billion package of rebates and business tax cuts in a deal wrapped up Thursday between House leaders and President Bush.

Bush encouraged Congress on Friday to quickly pass the package without any further spending.

"I strongly believe it would be a mistake to delay or derail this bill," Bush said.

"I understand the desire to add provisions from both the right and the left," he said, adding that would be an error.

Senate Democrats are refusing to rubber stamp the House measure. That raises the possibility of protracted negotiations if Democrats are successful in adding giving retirees tax rebates, extending unemployment benefits, boosting heating subsidies for the poor and temporarily increasing food stamp payments.

Those are all items floated by top Senate Democrats left out of the negotiations between the administration and House leaders.

They were all considered but tossed overboard in intense talks that produced a hard-won agreement among Bush, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader John Boehner.

Their plan would give individual taxpayers up to $600 in rebates, working couples $1,200 and those with children an additional $300 per child. The rebates would phase out gradually for individuals whose adjusted gross income exceeds $75,000 and for couples with incomes above $150,000.

But it would leave out about 20 million senior citizens living chiefly on Social Security. They wouldn't get rebate checks unless

(See SENIORS, Page 2A)

Son Kim: Reno Dongilli great man

Despite rescue attempts, the 79-year-old Rostraver man could not be saved.

By PAUL PATERRA
For The Valley Independent
ppaterra@tribweb.com

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP – Kim Dongilli spoke fondly of his father, Reno, Friday morning, hours after he made several attempts to rescue the 79-year-old from a fire at his mobile home.

"He was a great man," Kim Dongilli said. "He would do anything for anybody."

Reno Dongilli, who was bedridden with lung cancer and used an oxygen tank, lived alone at 92 Dongilli Park Lane. About 2 a.m. yesterday, he called Lifeline, a medical alert service, when the fire broke out, Rostraver police said. Lifeline contacted Kim Dongilli, whose home is just 20 yards away.

Kim Dongilli was able to get into the trailer and pull burning blankets from his father's bed. But fire and smoke forced him back outside.

"I went in and tried to get him out," Kim Dongilli said. "I got the blankets off him and threw them outside. They had the biggest fire. The oxygen started blowing up, so I had to go outside. The smoke just wouldn't let me in there. My wife said oxygen lines were blowing up on me. I went in four, five, six times."

Reno Dongilli was pronounced dead at the scene by Deputy Coroner Gerald Fritz at 3:10 a.m. The cause of death was thermal injuries and smoke inhalation, according to the Westmoreland County Coroner's office.

Vince Campbell, Rostraver Central fire chief, said Reno Dongilli suffered significant burns.

"He had a lot of second-degree burns," Campbell said. "He had a lot of soot. You could tell he had been in a fire.

"There was a lot of smoke," Campbell said of the situation when firefighters arrived. "His bed was directly off the front porch. The guys went straight in and found him.

"His son was trying to get him out. We started pulling (Reno) out, but there was no need."

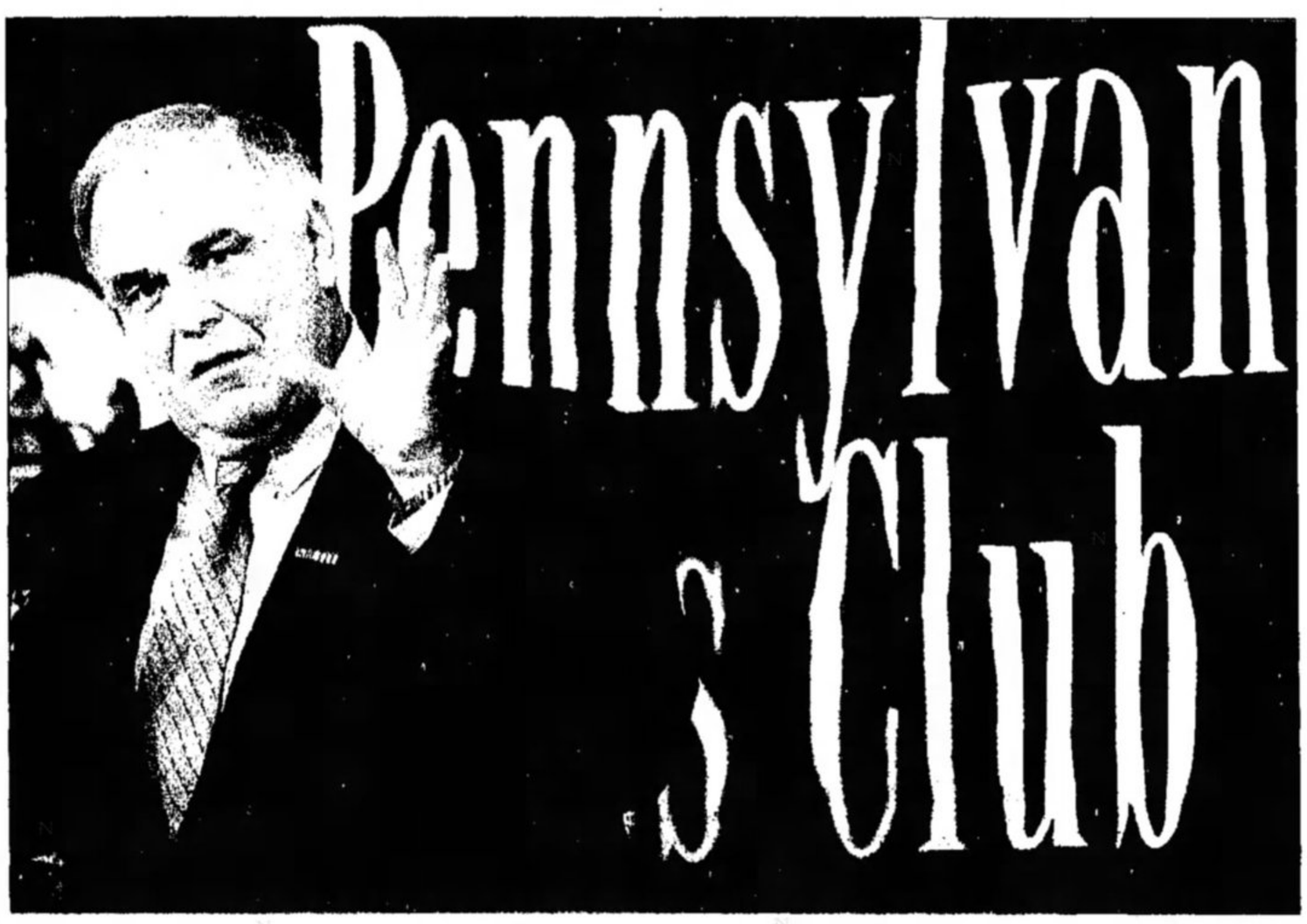
Firefighters had the fire under control in about 10 minutes. They were already at the station – about five miles from the Dongilli's home – after being on standby for a house fire Thursday night on Smithton Pike in South Huntingdon.

Kim Dongilli said he suffered some minor burns.

"I'm fine," he said.

Emergency personnel remained on the scene until about 6 a.m. with Rostraver police, Westmoreland County Coroner's Office and the state police fire marshal. The fire marshal said he found nothing suspicious at the scene. The investigation into the fire is ongoing.

(See DONGILLI, Page 2A)



Associated Press

Gov. Ed Rendell, featured in this file photo, wants to lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike to raise money for transportation.

State law does not limit turnpike toll increases

A turnpike commission official claims Act 44 does not provide unlimited power.

By BRAD BUMSTED
For The Valley Independent
bbumsted@tribweb.com

HARRISBURG – Contrary to what even some policymakers believed, the transportation funding bill approved in July imposed no limits on fare hikes that can be levied by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

The commission and lawmakers overseeing passage of Act 44 said fares would increase by 25 percent in 2009 to help pay off bonds used to generate money for highways, bridges and mass transit. Turnpike rates would increase by 3 percent in subsequent years.

But the law itself doesn't spell out the rate hikes or impose any limits, transportation experts said today.

"I was flabbergasted when I found it," said Peter Samuel, who publishes TOLLROADSnews.com. His Web site reported that tolls are unlimited under Act 44.

Samuel said he thought the law spelled out the rate hikes.

"He is correct – Act 44 does not place a limitation on toll increases," Bob Caton, a spokesman for House Majority Whip Keith McCall, D-Carbon County, said.

Another key element of Act 44 funding is to place tolls on Interstate 80. Pennsylvania's application to do so is pending with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"If I-80 does not get tolled, the (turnpike commission) may have to increase tolls on the mainline significantly, to meet the obligations under Act 44," Caton said.

Matthew Brouillette, president of the Commonwealth Foundation, which favors leasing the turnpike to a private owner as Gov. Ed Rendell has proposed, said the finding is significant because the turnpike commission has said rates could double or triple under a private operator.

"While the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and its lobbyists have been effectively scaring citizens about the potential of sky-high toll rate increases if a private operator took over the turnpike, it is actually the Turnpike Commission that has the unlimited power to raise tolls, " Brouillette said.

"The fact that this was unknown or not well publicized demonstrates what happens when stealth legislation is ram-rodded through the process by special interests and their high-paid lobbyists," Brouilette said.

Carl DeFabo, a turnpike spokesman, said it's a stretch to say the turnpike has unlimited power to raise tolls.

The turnpike doesn't need legislative authority to raise tolls, but as a practical matter proposed rate hikes are run by transportation committee chairs in the Legislature and the governor, DeFebo said. That, in effect, sets limitations, he argued.

"The Turnpike Commission for more than 67 years has never run amok with toll increases," DeFebo said. It has raised fares only a few times during that period, he said.

In 2004, fares increased on average by 42 percent.

Quick action saves fallen firefighter

Emergency personnel employed an electric shock to restart Andy Baran's heart.

By PAUL PATERRA
For The Valley Independent
ppaterra@tribweb.com

A West Newton firefighter is recovering after suffering a heart attack while battling a house fire Thursday night in South Huntingdon.

Andy Baran, 53, a veteran with the department, remained in Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh Friday, but was probably alive because of the quick reactions of emergency personnel at the scene.

Firefighters were called to 567 Smithton Pike at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday night for a fire at a double-wide mobile home with additions in a remote area just off Interstate 70.

"It was fully involved," said Bill Lee, assistant chief for Turkeytown Volunteer Fire Department. "Fire was coming out all sides."

Firefighters were able to get their lines working and connect with hydrants in an area with limited water access to battle the blaze. Lee said the fire was under control in about 30 minutes.

While emergency personnel were working at the scene, Baran collapsed.

Fortunately, this happened near the Turkeytown rescue truck, which is equipped with an automated external defibrillator. Paramedics sprung into action.

"This shifted everybody's attention," Lee said. "There were two paramedics standing right there. They were quick to grab the

(See QUICK, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Seniors (FROM PAGE ONE)

they have at least $3,000 earned income or pay income taxes based on other sources such as earnings, interest, investments or private pension plans.

"Less than half of all Americans 65 and older wouldn't get it," said AARP spokesman Jim Dau.

It's not clear whether seniors would ultimately be included in the final bill sent to Bush's desk.

The House is planning to pass the measure the week of Feb. 4, leaving the Senate perhaps a week and a half to pass its bill, reach and agreement with the House and Bush and meet Majority Leader Harry Reid's promise of wrapping it all up by Feb. 15.

At a news conference Thursday, Pelosi, Boehner and Paulson were careful to respect the Senate's right to change the bill.

"This is not going to preclude the Senate from being the Senate and doing what they do," said Boehner.

At the same time, however, the three clearly believe that the Senate will feel enormous pressure to largely stick with the outlines of the Bush-Pelosi-Boehner agreement.

The worry is that the Senate will load up the bill with costly ideas that could provoke a confrontation with Bush and slow down the bill – and delay mailing the rebate checks.

It's particularly risky for Democrats controlling Congress, who might get blamed for any delays. But Democrats vowed the bill will still get sent to Bush's desk within three weeks and they promised not to go overboard.

"Pigs get fat. Hogs get slaughtered," said a top Senate Democratic staff aide. "We're not interested in loading this up."

Much debate centers on whether to extend unemployment benefits for jobless people whose benefits have run out. Some Democrats, such as Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, were livid that unemployment insurance was dropped by Pelosi in end-stage talks on Wednesday.

Senate Democrats appear confident they can muster the 60 votes needed to overcome procedural hurdles in front of efforts to boost unemployment benefits. If unemployment insurance is part of a Senate bill sent back over to the House, Pelosi would face a quandary: Should she stand by her deal with the President or side with the Senate?

Some Democrats think Bush would have a difficult time threatening a veto over unemployment insurance.

The Senate often prevails in its battles with the House, often because once the Senate musters bipartisan support for legislation, their negotiators simply insist that any changes could provoke a minority party filibuster.

But this is one time when the House seems to have the upper hand.

"Boehner told (Pelosi) very early on ... let's try to get something done here that the White House can agree on and so we can thrust it upon the Senate," said a senior House GOP aide. "The unspoken word was that she could jam this down Harry Reid's throat and I think she likes that idea."

Yesteryear

Featured from left in this photo submitted by Frederick Schmidt, of Belle Vernon, are George Marshall, Schmidt and William Gauden. All three were from Belle Vernon.

If you have a good oldtime photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

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Weather

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 35 Low 22	High 45 Low 32	High 48 Low 32	High 32 Low 20	High 35 Low 25

Feds want PHEAA to pay

The state student loan agency received too much money.

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG – The federal government is asking Pennsylvania's student-loan agency to repay as much as $15 million that officials say it overcharged for loan subsidies.

The U.S. Department of Education outlined its request in a letter to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency on Friday, two months after the department's inspector general released an audit of the PHEAA subsidies.

The audit determined that PHEAA was overpaid $35 million in federal subsidies from July 2003 to June 2006 – 13 percent of the more than $263 million it received during that period.

But the department ultimately did not accept all the audit's findings, Patricia Trubia of the Federal Student Aid office wrote in her letter to PHEAA.

Federal regulations allow lenders to receive federal subsidies for student loans funded by tax-exempt bonds issued before Oct. 1, 1993. The department estimates that PHEAA overbilled the government $15 million from October 2004 to September 2006 for loans that were refinanced with taxable and ineligible tax-exempt bonds, Trubia wrote.

PHEAA has 30 days to respond to the letter, and spokesman Keith New said Friday the agency has not agreed how much money, if any, it should repay. PHEAA, however, has been negotiating the matter with the federal government as part of a separate Education Department review whose findings were released in 2006, New said.

"We've always said that there was nothing new (in the audit) and the department has confirmed that," New said. "We have steadfastly always followed department guidelines."

U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., who chairs the House Education and Labor Committee, said he hoped the enforcement was a sign the Education Department "is finally starting to take its role as the steward of our nation's federal student aid programs seriously."

The agency manages about $100 billion in loans issued by PHEAA and other lenders, including $47 billion in outstanding guaranteed loans.

Two similar federal audits have focused on how lenders have profited from the government's promise in the 1980s to guarantee a return of 9.5 percent on student loans financed by tax-exempt bonds.

The government made that pledge at a time when interest rates were high, and it had to pay lenders the interest that was not covered by students.

When interest rates dropped, the practice sent billions of dollars in government payments to PHEAA and other lenders. Congress has more recently enacted legislation intended to phase out the subsidy.

An audit released in 2006 found that for-profit Nebraska student loan company Nelnet was improperly paid more than $278 million through the federal student aid program.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said last year her agency would not seek to recover past overpayments under a settlement with Nelnet, which promised to end the practice.

The inspector general also found in 2005 that the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation improperly received more than $35 million in federal payments, but the department did not order the foundation to repay the money.

Dongilli (FROM PAGE ONE)

The L.L. Barthels Funeral Home, Smithton, will handle funeral arrangements.

Reno Dongilli had operated a garage and mechanic shop and drove a bus for the Belle Vernon Area School District.

Along with his son, Kim, he is survived by a daughter, Teresa Frazier, and two other sons, Dave and Gary. Gary Dongilli was the former football coach at Yough, Belle Vernon and Hempfield high schools. Reno's wife, Bertha, died in 2001.

"He will be greatly missed," Kim Dongilli said

Quick (FROM PAGE ONE)

AED and threw it right on him. It was the perfect scenario for what an AED can do. It could save your life."

That may be the case for Baran. Lee said personnel at the scene reacted quickly and appropriately.

"Firemen from West Newton were upset, some were crying, but the reaction was very professional," Lee said. "If it was going to happen to me, these are the people I would want it to happen with. There was no thinking, everybody reacted and saved a life."

A landing zone was set up at Turkeytown Fire Department to fly Baran to Allegheny General Hospital.

There were no other injuries as a result of the fire, which took place at the home where Jeremy and Jennifer Keefer live with their son Zachary.

> "Firemen from West Newton were upset, some were crying, but the reaction was very professional. If it was going to happen to me, these are the people I would want it to happen with. There was no thinking, everybody reacted and saved a life."
>
> TURKEYTOWN ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF BILL LEE

Jeremy and Zachary were home at the time of the blaze but were able to get out unharmed. They also were able to get their puppy out safely.

Lee said the home was destroyed.

"Everything was lost," Lee said. "All their Christmas presents were lost, including a dirt bike for their son."

The American Red Cross is assisting the family.

Lee said he believes the fire was caused by a small space heater in the home, but the blaze remains under investigation by the state police fire marshal.

The bitter temperatures did not seem to affect firefighters at the scene.

"It was cold, but I didn't hear of any lines freezing," Lee said. "When (Collinsburg) took their line out of a hydrant, (the hydrant) was full of rocks. Sometimes, hydrants get debris in them.

"Everybody did an excellent job."

Among the fire companies called to the scene were Turkeytown, Yukon, West Newton, Smithton, Collinsburg, Sutersville, Scottdale, Washington Township, Rostraver Central, Hutchinson and North Belle Vernon. Lee said PennDOT personnel also assisted.

Valley briefs

Skiing back at Boyce Park

MONROEVILLE (AP) – The Boyce Park Ski Area in Monroeville is scheduled to reopen Saturday after being closed for $1 million in renovations during the 2006-07 season.

The Allegheny County Parks Department says the renovations included a new snow tubing area and upgrades to existing ski lifts.

The parks department also added two new magic carpet lifts. One of the slow moving conveyor belts will carry novice skiers and snowboarders to the top of the hill, while the other magic carpet lift will be used by snow tubers.

Weather permitting, the ski area will be open through mid-March.

Alleged eagle shooter charged

BUTLER (AP) – The Pennsylvania Game Commission has accused a Butler teenager with fatally shooting an immature bald eagle.

The 17-year-old is charged in juvenile court with unlawful taking or possession of protected birds. The third-degree misdemeanor carries a fine up to $2,500.

The Game Commission says the boy shot the bird on Nov. 17 near the Pennsylvania American Water Co. along Route 38.

The bird was taken to the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Crawford County, but it died on Nov. 26.

Ex-funeral director nixes plea offer

PITTSBURGH (AP) – A former funeral director rejected a plea bargain and opted for a nonjury trial on charges that he abused corpses of newborn babies by storing them in his garage.

Robert Winston Jr., 63, of McKeesport, had a contract with Magee-Womens Hospital to dispose of stillborns, fetuses and other remains of unborn babies. Prosecutors contend he failed to do so in hundreds of cases.

Under the proposed plea deal, Winston was to plead no contest to eight corpse-abuse charges and prosecutors would have dropped several others. He also was to plead no contest to a charge of theft by deception. Winston will be tried on all counts.

Another girl in sex photos

ALLENTOWN (AP) – Authorities said Friday that three girls appear in sexually explicit cell phone images that were forwarded to many students at a suburban high school, one more than originally reported.

Prosecutors said two girls appearing in the images have been identified as Parkland High School students. Contrary to an initial report, they said another girl seen having sex with a boy in a video had not been identified and they are unsure what school she attends. The boy also remains unidentified.

The two Parkland students shown exposing themselves are 14 and 17, said Matthew S. Falk, Lehigh County's chief deputy district attorney.

Both girls took the pictures of themselves.

County prosecutors contacted about 40 students and their parents, asking that the students come forward to show that the images had been deleted from their cell phones.

Ex-Commodore a success

John Brinkman values friendships forged in the Mon Valley.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

ex

A weekly look at people who left the Valley

John Brinkman first made his mark as a Frazier High School football player. He continued that success at Duke University, in the United States Football League and in the world of business.

Learning to adapt and never quit has gotten John Brinkman far in life.

Brinkman, a former Mon Valley resident, learned the meaning of adversity and the value of determination during his college football days at Duke University.

Pitted against strong competition in the Atlantic Coast Conference, Brinkman said being a key player on the team taught him to fight hard – no matter the circumstance.

"Even thought we didn't have a hugely successful team at Duke, we passed the ball a lot and put up a lot of points," Brinkman said. "But we played in a pretty competitive ACC league. We were in the top five in strength of schedule.

"Just playing major college football in that program taught me how to persevere and stick with something and get through very difficult times. Major college football, day in and day out, practicing and playing the games out is tough. All those cliche lessons that they say sports teach you really do help you in your life."

Brinkman, 48, was born in central Connecticut.

At age 9, he moved to the Charleroi.

At that time, his father, Ray, was the general manager of the Hill's Department Store in Rostraver Township's Tri-County Plaza.

Brinkman attended Frazier High School, where he played football and basketball and ran track.

After graduating in 1977, he headed to Duke on a full football scholarship.

At Duke, Brinkman's efforts as a tight end earned him a spot on the All-ACC first team during his senior year.

Brinkman also received a bachelor of arts degree in design.

In the mid-1980s, he had a shot with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the United States Football League.

Steve Spurrier, the offensive coordinator at Duke during Brinkman's days as a Blue Devil, became the Bandits' head coach.

Spurrier, now head coach at the University of South Carolina, invited Brinkman for a tryout in the fledgling league, which remained in existence for just three years.

"The last two years of that league, I was on the roster for the Bandits, just as a backup tight end," Brinkman said.

After that, Brinkman lived for several years in Maryland and began working in the retail rental business.

He moved to San Jose, Calif., and now is regional vice president for Westfield Development in San Jose, where he has worked for the last five years.

"My job is to negotiate leases with retailers," Brinkman said. "The company has got 57 malls in the United States and 30 are along the West Coast. So, my job is to work with major national apparel retailers and find space for them in our centers."

Brinkman said the market has changed dramatically in the 22 years he has been in the business, and his knack for adjusting to new environments has paid off.

"It's as good as it's ever been," he said of his career. "I work for a dynamic, leading edge company, and it's been a fabulous experience, and I'm delighted to be here."

Brinkman said he occasionally travels to Pittsburgh to meet with one of his clients, the American Eagle Outfitters.

He returns to the Valley about once a year to catch up with loved ones.

"I absolutely love living in San Jose," Brinkman said. "This is one of the most spectacular places I've ever lived, but the best friends I have in the world are in the Valley."

Brinkman's sister, Jane Lee, lives in Fayette City.

His stepmother, Kay Brinkman, a stepbrother and two stepsisters live in Jefferson Township.

Brinkman also has three sisters and a younger brother.

Brinkman has been married to his wife, Carlisle, for 16 years.

He has a daughter, Lily, 15; a son, Beau, 11; and two stepsons; Steven, 28, and Matt, 24, who live in San Francisco.

In his spare time, Brinkman hits the bike trails with his son, plays golf and tennis and paints.

Basketball is still in the athlete's blood. He passed on his hardcourt knowledge to his daughter, who plays on her high school team.

"I really miss playing basketball," Brinkman said. "I go out and shoot around with my daughter. We've got a basketball goal in the driveway so we go out and shoot around."

Brinkman's football days may not be over.

The former Frazier star jokingly said he is considering a humble return to a modified gridiron.

"A guy at work plays Sunday flag football," Brinkman said. "He's trying to recruit me, and I'm thinking about taking him up on the offer."

Rendell issues annual review

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG – Gov. Ed Rendell on Friday issued the first of what he said will be annual reviews of his administration – by his administration.

"Pennsylvania taxpayers have a right to know how the commonwealth spends their hard-earned tax dollars," the Democrat said in a statement. "This report provides those crucial answers. It shows we are making progress, but we have more work to do."

The 170-page "Governor's Report on State Performance," which is available online, emphasizes the administration's achievements during Rendell's five years as governor. It provides basic information about the major departments of state government and programs they administer, as well as an assortment of charts, graphs and tables to illustrate trends and tax dollars spent.

Some statistics in the report are of questionable value.

For example, one chart says the number of jobs "created, retained or pledged" as a result of state economic development programs grew from about 187,000 in 2004-05 to more than 282,000 in 2006-07.

In fact, many of the jobs promised by companies that accept state financial incentives never materialize.

The planned printing of 1,000 to 1,500 copies is

POLICE LOG

Charleroi

■ Kurt Fritzel 47, of 409 1/2 Second St., Monongahela, was charged with retail theft from Rite Aid, 3:50 p.m. Wednesday, police reported.

Monongahela

■ David Milesky, 29, of 6832 Ridge Ave., Finleyville, was charged with violating a protection from abuse order, police reported.

■ James Satter reported to police that someone broke into his 501 Memorial Drive, New Eagle, home, sometime after 5 p.m. Wednesday. An electric guitar, CDs, iPpod and Xbox 360 were stolen, police reported.

California

■ Robert Alexander Straw, 19, of Verona, was charged with possession of a controlled substance in connection with an incident that occurred 3 a.m. Jan. 18 on Fifth Street, police said.

Rostraver

■ Andrew N. Wernert, 25, of 465 Linnwood Road, Eighty Four, was charged with retail theft of $252 in merchandise from Wal-Mart at 5:30 p.m. Friday, police said.

■ Matthew E. Miller, 24, of 315 Second St., Monessen, was charged with forgery, theft by deception and receiving stolen property after an incident Sept. 14 at National City Bank in Rostraver Township. Police said Miller attempted to use a stolen check written for $1,275.

■ Melvin Willard White Jr., 27, of 165 Hummingbird Drive, Indiana, Pa., was charged with retail theft of $781 in merchandise from Wal-Mart at 5:01 p.m. Jan. 16, police said.

■ Charles J. Paulovich, 56, 135 Pride Drive, Belle Vernon, was charged with driving under the influence and careless driving after an incident 11:40 p.m. Sunday on Summit Drive, police said.

■ David J. Shelly, 47, of 814 Cherry St., Perryopolis, was driving under the influence and possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia after an incident 8:02 p.m. Dec. 29 on Route 51, police said.

State police, Greensburg

■ Police are investigating a burglary at the home of Jack Korpar, 45, of Korpar Lane, West Newton, that took place during the hours of 12:45 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Police said a 60-inch Sony television, Sony Playstation 2, an HP Pavilion laptop, RCA video camera and miscellaneous jewelry were stolen. Police said there are four suspects, three of whom are juveniles. Anyone having information should contact the Greensburg barracks by calling (724) 832-3288.

■ Alfred Guerrieri, 75,of Herminie, reported that someone placed property that did not belong to him on his property at 162 Limerick Road for a year while Guerrieri was not home.

In addition, Guerrieri reported on Jan. 12 that at an unknown time, someone entered his home and took various items.

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RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

BIAGINI – Mary M. Biagini, 81, of Belle Vernon, on Friday, Jan. 25. Leonard M. Pavlic Funeral Homes Inc., Charleroi.*

DONGILLI – Reno Dongilli, 78, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), on Friday, Jan. 25. L.L. Barthels Funeral Home Inc., Smithton.*

LUTZ – John Lutz, 90, of Dravosburg, formerly of Monessen, on Thursday, Jan. 24. I. M. Finney Funeral Home, Dravosburg.*

MCVICKER – Bruce H. McVicker, 53, of Donora, formerly of Monongahela, on Friday, Jan. 18. Frye Funeral Home Inc., Monongahela.*

PENDO – Norman Pendo, 82, of North Belle Vernon, on Thursday, Jan. 24. Ferguson Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., Belle Vernon.*

STEINER – Blanche H.L. Steiner, of Maryville, Tenn., on Wednesday, Jan. 23. McCammon-Ammons-Click Funeral Home Inc., Maryville, Tenn.*

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
HARGER, Delores*
WEIBL, A. Hazel*
*** See death notice**

Delores Harger
Newell

Delores "Do-Do" Givogre Harger, 77, of Newell, passed away peacefully the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, in the Washington County Health Center. She was the beloved wife of Edwin S. Harger, who cared for her so lovingly and patiently over the past 12 years as she battled Alzheimer's disease. They met at the "Piggy Wiggy" Skating Rink in Belle Vernon and continued to be avid roller and ice skaters and dancers for most of their lives together. They celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary in April 2007. Born Delores Marie Givogre in Brownsville General Hospital, Do-Do was the first born child of the late Joseph and the late Catherine Bielek Givogre and spent a very happy childhood in California. She graduated from California High School in 1948 and went on to Douglas Business School. After graduating, she was employed for a time with The Valley Independent newspaper. After this initial job, she began a career at Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, where she worked for 33 years in the California office. She worked as a secretary, ran the print shop, did payroll and served in many other areas during her career. Upon retirement, she worked as the assistant office manager of the Newell Federal Credit Union for approximately 10 years. Do-Do was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Newell and the Christian Mothers group. She was known for her many talents, particularly her artistic, sewing and crafting skills. Do-Do was a den mother for the Newell Cub Scouts in past years and a member of the ladies' auxiliaries of the Newell Fire Department and the Santa Barbara Italian Club in Newell. In addition to her loving and devoted husband, Edwin S. Harger, she is survived by her cherished, only child, her son, Martin L Harger Sr., of Newell. She was dearly loved and adored by her only sister, Mary Givogre Tafel, wife of the Rev. Gregory S. Tafel, of Easton. She was blessed with two grandchildren whom she cherished and adored, grandson, Martin L. Harger Jr. and wife, Jamie (Strothers), of Perryopolis, and granddaughter, Amber Lynn Harger, now living in Michigan, and two great-granddaughters, Sage Lynn and Chloe Morgan Harger, of Perryopolis. She was the most wonderful aunt in the world and will be dearly missed by her nephews, Justin Tafel and Jared Tafel and wife, Adria Basi. In addition, she is survived by four sisters-in-law, Ruth Harger Winsing, of Uniontown, Lorraine Fuller Harger, of Middletown, Ohio, Margaret Decovich Harger, of Brownsville, and Donna Kelly, of Florida. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews on the Harger side of the family. Do-Do was predeceased by a beloved younger brother, William Joseph "Billy Boy" Givogre, who died in 1949 at the age of 12 after a long battle with leukemia. Finally, Do-Do is reunited with her precious little brother and her beloved parents in Heaven. Friends will be received in the ELEY-McCRORY FUNERAL HOME INC., 334.Main St., Fayette City (724-326-5621), on Sunday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 and Monday, Jan. 28, until 9:30 a.m., when a blessing service will take place, followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church, Belle Vernon, with the Rev. Lawrence Manchas as celebrant. Interment will follow in LaFayette Memorial Park, Brier Hill. Contributions in memory of Delores G. "Do-Do" Harger may be made to: The Adult Day Center, The Center in the Woods, 130 Woodland Court, Brownsville, Pa. 15417. The family is grateful to the Adult Day Center for the loving care they gave to Do-Do during the last year she was able to be at home. She loved seeing "all the people" and dancing on music days.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mary M. Biagini
Belle Vernon

Mary M. Biagini, 81, of Belle Vernon, died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, in Manor Care, McMurray. Born in Middlebrook, Va., on April 24, 1926, she was a daughter of the late Taz and Marie Eutsler Johnson. She was a member of St. Sebastian Roman Catholic Church in Belle Vernon and a former member of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Charleroi. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Biagini was preceded in death by her first husband, Harry E. Houston, and her second husband, Albert R. Biagini; three brothers, John, Richard and Leroy Johnson; and two sisters, Lillian Miller and Juanita Fridley. She is survived by four daughters and two sons-in-law, Ruth and John Habel, of Belle Vernon, Carolyn Altman, of Avon Lake, Ohio, Denise Biagini, of Belle Vernon, and Denise and Albert Onda, of Cranberry Township; 10 grandchildren, Kathleen Habel, of Belle Vernon, John and Diana Habel, of Monessen, Richard and Maria Taylor, of Belle Vernon, Mary Beth and Geoff Dewitt, of Belle Vernon, Emily and Rod Lenhart, of Acme, Justin and Linda Altman, of Monroeville, N.J., Jessica and Jim Pyle, of Adams Township, and Andrew, Jennifer and Angela Onda, all of Cranberry Township; 12 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Helen Tanksley and Ann Johnson; and two brothers, Hansford and David Johnson, all of Staunton, Va. Friends will be received Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the LEONARD M. PAVLIC FUNERAL HOMES INC., 235 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi (724-489-9551). A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m. in Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi, followed by interment in Westmoreland County Memorial Park, Greensburg.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Reno Dongilli
Belle Vernon
(Rostraver Township)

Reno Dongilli, 78, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, at his residence. He was born Oct. 1, 1929, in Van Meter, a son of the late Victor and Josephine Gruphofer Dongilli. He was a self-employed mechanic, a school bus driver for the Belle Vernon Area School District, and had worked at the Donora Mill. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict, and a member of American Legion Post 790 and the Marconi Club, both in Smithton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Bertha Yenchick Dongilli; three brothers, Larry, Leon and Norman Dongilli; and three sisters, Marcella Molchan, and Dolores and Freda Dongilli. Survivors include three sons, Gary (Georgine) Dongilli, of Smithton, Dave Dongilli, of Perryopolis, and Kim (Brenda) Dongilli, of Rostraver Township; one daughter, Teresa (Scott) Frazier, of Berlin; 10 grandchildren, Jeremy (Kim) Dongilli, of New Jersey, Dominique (Keith) Ferrier, of Irwin, Jason (Sarah) Dongilli, of Belle Vernon, Sommer Dongilli, of Monongahela, Cagney, Shane, Brendan and Cody Dongilli, of Rostraver Township, and Brian and Greg Frazier, of Berlin; two great-grandchildren, Dominick and Tristin Dongilli, of Belle Vernon; three brothers, Randall Dongilli, of Newell, and Carl and Arthur Dongilli, of Rostraver Township; one sister, Laverna Painter, of Rostraver Township; and numerous nieces and nephews. Family and friends will be received Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the L.L. BARTHELS FUNERAL HOME INC., Second Street, Smithton. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m. in the funeral home with the Rev. Robert Henderson officiating. Interment will be in Olive Branch Cemetery, Rostraver Township.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

John Lutz
Dravosburg
Formerly of Monessen

John Lutz, 90, of Dravosburg, formerly of Monessen, died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008. He was born May 8, 1917, in Donora, a son of the late John and Catherine Vrabel Lutz. He was formerly employed as a steelworker by U.S. Steel, Donora Works, and retired from Sears Automotive in West Mifflin as a mechanic. Mr. Lutz was a life member of the Monessen Elks and an avid bowler. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters. Survivors include his wife, Vivian Arlene Robinson Lutz; two sisters, Ann Timko and Dolores Rostcheck, both of Monongahela; one sister-in-law, Mary Ann Lutz, of New Eagle; and nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Sunday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. at the I.M. FINNEY FUNERAL HOME INC., 203 Fourth St., Dravosburg. Friends will be received prior to services from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Bruce H. McVicker
Donora
Formerly of Monongahela

Funeral services will be held this morning for Bruce Hamilton McVicker, 53, of Donora, formerly of Monongahela, who passed away Friday, Jan. 18, 2008, in his home. He was born Nov. 7, 1954, in Monongahela, a son of the late Frank Robert Sr. and Dora Frances Toretti McVicker. Bruce was a 1972 graduate of Ringgold High School and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Monongahela. He was formerly employed by U.S. Steel, Irvin Works, and as a computer analyst for E.F. Hutton in San Diego, Calif. Bruce also was an over-the-road truck driver on an independent basis. He is survived by two brothers, John A. (Jolie Roy) McVicker, of Chicago, Ill., and Frank Robert Jr. (Debbie) McVicker, of Buffalo, N.Y.; one sister, Mary Gail (Hank) Ervay, of Painted Post, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews. Family and friends will gather at the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., 427 W. Main St., Monongahela (724-258-6136), today at 10:30 a.m. for a time to socialize, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Mark Woomer officiating. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to: American Liver Foundation, 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 603, New York, N.Y. 10038-4810.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Norman Pendo
North Belle Vernon

Norman Pendo, 82, of North Belle Vernon, died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, in Jefferson Regional Medical Center. A son of the late John and Justine Klimo Pendo, he was born in Charleroi on Sept. 21, 1925. Norman retired from the former Lee Norse Company in Charleroi and was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Joseph Hunter, and one granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Jory and Bryan Weiland, all of Bethel Park. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Grace Melvin Pendo; and one brother, Russell Pendo. Friends will be received from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 3 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday in the FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY INC., 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, (724-929-5300), www.fergusonfuneralhome-andcrematory.com. A private blessing service will be in the funeral home Monday, Jan. 28, and interment will follow in Monongahela Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Blanche H.L. Steiner
Maryville, Tenn.

Funeral services will be held this morning for Blanche Hope Lynn Steiner, 88, of Maryville, Tenn., who passed away Wednesday Jan. 23, 2008, at her home. Funeral services were held at 7:30 p.m. Friday Jan. 25, in the chapel at McCAMMON-AMMONS-CLICK FUNERAL HOME, 220 West Broadway Ave., Maryville (865-982-6812), with the Rev. Ann Brunger officiating. Interment will be held Saturday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. in Sherwood Memorial Gardens. www.mccammonammon-sclick.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

A. Hazel Weibl
Monessen

A. Hazel Weibl, 89, of Monessen, died Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008, in Southwestern Nursing Center. She was born May 10, 1918, in Monessen, a daughter of the late Vasil and Mary Marchick Guzzie. She was a member of St. John the Divine Russian Orthodox Church of Monessen and its Ladies Altar Guild, serving as a former treasurer and vice president, and the church council, serving as a trustee. Surviving are two daughters, Geraldine "Jerry" Varsel, of Moon Township, and Stacy (Patsy) Maione, of Monessen; one son, Fred Weibl, of Winfield, W.Va.; eight grandchildren, Susan Azzarello, Bill Varsel, Nancy Plappert, Vincent Maione, Stacie Abbott, Natalie Shrader, Roslyn Payne and Edward Weibl; and 19 great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death was her husband, Edward Weibl; three brothers, George, John and William Guzzie; four sisters, Mary Mattie, Julia Koltash, Ann Affeltranger and Helen Berthinee; her daughter-in-law, Janice Weibl; two great-grandchildren, Armand Maione and Rachel Abbott; and one grandson-in-law, Jeff Abbott. Friends will be received at the RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC., 1209 Grand Blvd., Monessen, a Golden Rule Funeral Home, on Sunday from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. A Blessing Service will be held in the funeral home on Monday, Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m., followed by funeral services at 11 a.m. in St. John the Divine Russian Orthodox. Interment will be in Belle Vernon Cemetery. A Parastas service will be held in the funeral home Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a floral spray
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you sent a gift of food
Or let us use you a car,
Perhaps it was a call you made
From nearby or afar.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest word
As any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not there at all
Or just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever the part.
A special thanks to Father Fred Pfeil, Father George Alberts, Dr. John Eisley, Dr. Mohsen Isaac & Dr. Andrew Zahalsky and all those who helped in any way to lessen our sorrow in our bereavement after the death of our beloved husband, father & grandfather.

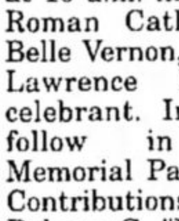
The Family of George J. Kickel

In Memory Of
Nick Smerilli

A Birthday Tribute January 27, in loving memory of my beloved father, Nick Smerilli.
Today is your birthday without candles and cake, and since you're not with us we won't celebrate. On a sad day like this there is not much to say, but ask God to honor you in His own way. And grant us one wish and make it come true, to have His choir of Angels sing "Happy Birthday" to you.
Sadly missed and loved by his daughter Kathy

In Memory Of
Fred M. Hoyes

In loving memory of our beloved son & father, Fred M. Hoyes, who passed away 1 year ago today, January 26, 2007.
Within our hearts we'll always keep a special place for you, and try to do our best to live as you would want us to. We loved you so, we miss you, in our memory you are near, loved, remembered and longed for, always treasured with love sincere.
Sadly missed and loved by mother & father Margaret & William, daughters Shelley & Renee

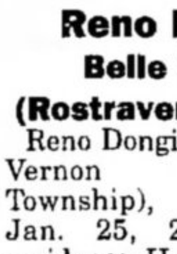


In Memory Of
Pete Minniti

Who passed away 2 years ago today, January 26th, 2006.

Pete,
Though your smile is gone forever,
and your hand I cannot touch,
I still have so many
memories of the one
I loved so much.
Your memory is my
keepsake, with which
I'll never part.
God has you in His keeping,
I have you in my heart.
I miss you and I love you.

Love, Your Ne



In Memory
Of
Eleanor F. Davis

In loving memory of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, Eleanor F. Davis, who passed away 7 years ago, January 27, 2001.
Your life is a beautiful memory,
Your death is a silent grief,
You sleep in God's beautiful garden,
In the sunshine of perfect peace.
Sadly missed and loved by Shirley, Pat and all family members.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

Larry Hopkins, Charleroi

The following cases were heard Wednesday in the courtroom of Magisterial District Judge Larry Hopkins:

■ Martin Hamay, 51, of 139 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, was charged with simple assault in connection with an alleged incident Nov. 4 at his residence; charges were withdrawn.

■ Norman Nolder 52, of 318 Fallowfield Ave., Apt. 2; was charged with simple assault and harassment in connection with an alleged incident Dec. 5 at his residence; charges were withdrawn.

■ Denise Stevenson, 37, of 203 Chestnut St., Stockdale, was charged with simple assault and harassment in connection with an alleged incident Dec. 29 in Stockdale; charges were withdrawn. She pleaded guilty to a summary charge of harassment.

Luther McIntyre

The family of the late Luther McIntyre wishes to thank all our friends and neighbors who were so kind following his death. We also wish to thank the Rev. Patricia Dudley, House of Jackson, and all those who sent flowers, cards, food, and extended the use of their cars or helped in any way.

The Luther McIntyre Family

www.valleyindependent.com

TODAY IN HISTORY

January 26

Today is Saturday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2008. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On Jan. 26, 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

On this date:

■ In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state.

■ In 1841, Britain formally occupied Hong Kong, which the Chinese had ceded to the British.

■ In 1861, Louisiana seceded from the Union.

■ In 1870, Virginia rejoined the Union.

■ In 1942, the first American expeditionary force to go to Europe during World War II went ashore in Northern Ireland.

■ In 1950, India officially proclaimed itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad took the oath of office as president.

■ In 1962, the United States launched Ranger III to land scientific instruments on the moon — but the probe missed its target by more than 22,000 miles.

■ In 1979, former Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller died in New York at age 70.

■ In 1988, Australians celebrated the 200th anniversary of their country as a grand parade of tall ships re-enacted the voyage of the first European settlers.

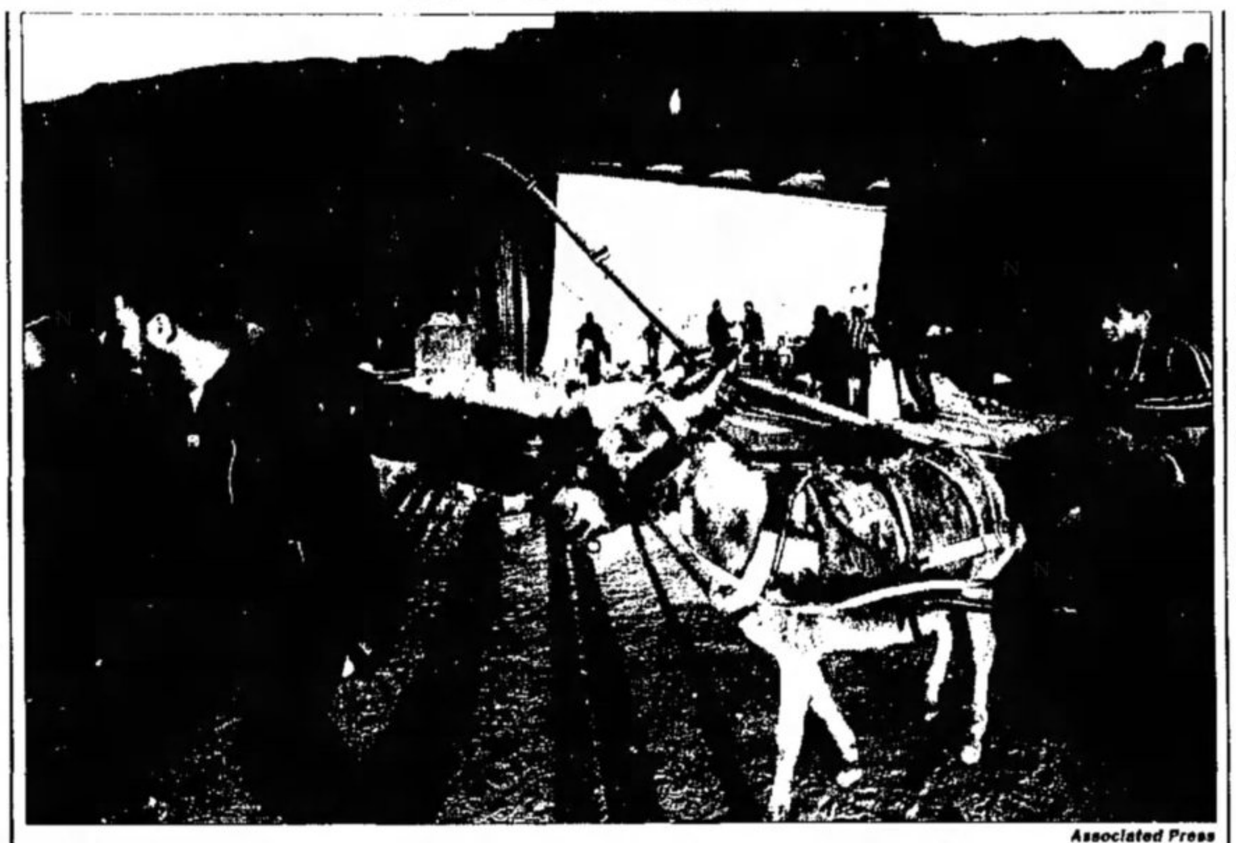
■ In 1988, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

■ Ten years ago: President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky." Stung by a drop in profits, AT&T said it would cut at least 15,000 jobs, freeze executive salaries and shake up management to reduce costs.

■ **Five years ago**: Secretary of State Colin Powell, citing Iraq's lack of cooperation with U.N. inspectors, said he'd lost faith in the inspectors' ability to conduct a definitive search for banned weapons programs. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers won their first NFL championship, routing the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in Super Bowl 37. Andre Agassi beat Germany's Rainer Schuettler 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 in the Australian Open final.

■ **One year ago**: The White House said President Bush had authorized U.S. forces in Iraq to take whatever actions were necessary to counter Iranian agents deemed a threat to American troops or the public at large. Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a news conference that a congressional resolution opposing President Bush's troop buildup in Iraq undercut U.S. commanders and emboldened the enemy. Nine black youths were convicted in juvenile court in Long Beach, Calif., of beating three white women in a racially charged attack on Halloween night.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Actress Anne Jeffreys is 85. Actor Paul Newman is 83. Actress Joan Leslie is 83. Cartoonist Jules Feiffer is 79. Sportscaster-actor Bob Uecker is 73. Actor Scott Glenn is 69. Singer Jean Knight is 65. Activist Angela Davis is 64. Rock musician Corky Laing (Mountain) is 60. Actor David Strathairn is 59. Singer Lucinda Williams is 55. Rock singer-musician Eddie Van Halen is 53. Reggae musician Norman Hassan (UB40) is 50. Actress-comedian Ellen DeGeneres is 50. Hockey star Wayne Gretzky is 47.



Associated Press

Palestinians lead a donkey cart past a destroyed section of the border wall Friday in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on their way to Egypt.

Hamas seeks voice in future Gaza plans

The militant group knocked another hole in border wall.

By The Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip – Hamas-backed militants driving bulldozers knocked down more fortifications Friday along the Gaza-Egypt border – a brazen challenge to Egyptian riot police.

The police abandoned their positions after attempting to reseal the frontier using human chains, dogs and water cannons.

Militants in black clothing, some of them masked, stood atop a bulldozer as it knocked down concrete slabs under the watchful eyes of Hamas security officials, who turned a blind eye and were later seen patrolling on the Egyptian side of the border.

Thousands of Palestinians flooded into Egypt, pushing through several openings as Egyptian troops retreated to their bases on the other side of the border. Palestinians positioned cranes next to the border and lifted crates of supplies into Gaza, including camels and cows.

Hamas, after blasting open the border wall earlier in the week, offered further proof Friday that it simply cannot be ignored – driving home in no uncertain terms that a high price will be paid by anyone who seeks to shape Gaza's border arrangements without the militants' consent.

The day's events also underscored a great dilemma faced by Egypt: if it acts forcefully against the Gazans, it could anger its own people, who are sympathetic to the Palestinians' plight. But if it does nothing, it risks infiltration by Islamic militants.

Earlier Friday, Hamas gunmen fanned out along the Gaza side of the border, attempting to create order. For the first time since the border wall was torn down in a series of blasts on Wednesday, Gaza's Hamas rulers deployed their most elite forces to contain the rowdy crowd.

Hamas is clearly seeking to flex its muscles ahead of a potential new border agreement with Egypt that the militants hope will help end a 2-year-old blockade imposed by Israel and the West.

The group called for a three-way meeting among Hamas, Egypt and the Fatah movement of President Mahmoud Abbas to try to come up with a new border arrangement for Gaza.

"If the leadership in Ramallah refuses this call, we will not stand idle until the siege overruns life in Gaza," Hamas said in a statement.

The border breach provided a significant popularity boost to Hamas, which can claim it successfully broke through the closure that has deprived the coastal strip of normal trade and commerce.

"Hamas did this and when Egypt found resistance, it let up," said a joyous Reem Sahloul, 28, of Khan Younis. "Hamas proved stronger than the (Egyptian) army."

Egyptian forces shot in the air, fired water cannons and – in a particularly forceful display – deployed dogs to hinder the flow of Gazans into Egypt. Dogs are considered impure by observant Muslims.

As bulldozers ripped down the wall and Gazans jumped over, soldiers ran with their dogs to chase the infiltrators. Hamas militants then opened fire on the dogs, killing three of them.

Iran faces more U.N. sanctions

The nation has refused to eliminate its nuclear program.

By The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland – New U.N. sanctions against Iran would require countries to ban the entry of individuals involved in the Iranian nuclear program – a step up from a previous call for vigilance over their travel, according to a document obtained Friday.

The latest round of penalties would also for the first time ban trade in equipment and technology that can be used in both civilian and nuclear programs, according to elements that would form the basis of a new U.N. resolution.

It would call on countries to inspect cargo heading to or from Iran "provided there are reasonable grounds to believe" that prohibited goods are being transported, the document obtained by The Associated Press said.

The five veto-wielding members of the council – the U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia – along with Germany, agreed this week on the basic terms of the resolution. Diplomats have said the full, 15-nation Security Council will likely approve it next month.

The six global powers offered Iran a package of economic incentives and political rewards in June 2006 if it agreed to freeze uranium enrichment before talks on its nuclear program. But Iran has refused despite two previous sets of sanctions.

The new proposal would freeze the assets of additional individuals and entities involved in Iran's nuclear activities that were not identified.

It calls on all countries "to exercise vigilance" in entering into new financial commitments with Iraq, including the granting of export credits, guarantees or insurance. It also calls for "vigilance" over financial dealings with Iranian-based banks, "in particular with Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, and their branches and subsidiaries abroad."

Iran insists its enrichment activities are intended only to produce fuel for nuclear reactors, but the U.S., the European Union and others suspect the goal is to produce atomic bombs.

Total Health Begins Here...

Transitioning to a healthier lifestyle is one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family, and our upcoming special section, **Health & Fitness**, is a great place to start. This valuable supplement delivers a large dose of health-promoting features for all ages. From diet and exercise tips to information specifically for men, women, or seniors, **Health & Fitness** has something for every member of the family. You'll also find valuable information about beauty trends, mental health, fitness and nutrition. Turn over a new leaf when you open **Health & Fitness. Coming January 31, 2008.**

Health & Fitness
A Special Supplement The Valley Independent
Trib Total Media

To feature your Health-Related business in this edition, call Kathy at 724-684-2606

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Bomber strikes in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) – A car bomb Friday killed one of Lebanon's top terrorism investigators who was probing assassinations of prominent anti-Syrian figures and a series of other attacks in recent years.

Capt. Wissam Eid, 31, worked for the police intelligence agency which is closely tied to the Western-backed government and had survived two previous assassination attempts. The attack also killed his bodyguard and three passers-by and wounded 37 people, police said.

A huge plume of black smoke rose from the site of the attack in the Lebanese capital. Television footage showed orange flames shooting up into the sky, as several cars burned and firefighters struggled to put out the flames.

Obama path becomes tricky

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) – Barack Obama is walking a tricky racial line, trying to excite black support in the South without getting tagged as "the black candidate" and scaring off anybody else.

At a spaghetti dinner in the basement of a black church this week, he told a cheering crowd the civil rights movement started from the bottom up, with marches and boycotts.

"That's how change comes," he said, linking black civil rights to his own campaign slogan.

But here in South Carolina, which has its Democratic primary Saturday, he also says over and over that color doesn't matter.

Chavez claims attack coming

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) – President Hugo Chavez on Friday accused Colombia of plotting a military attack against Venezuela.

"A military aggression against Venezuela is being prepared" by Colombia, Chavez said. He warned Colombia not to attempt "a provocation against Venezuela" and said his country would cut off all oil exports in the event of a military strike from the neighboring country.

Chavez did not offer evidence to support his claim.

He made the accusation just as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was visiting Colombia, saying she and two other senior American officials have appeared in Bogota recently "came to attack Venezuela" in their remarks. Rice did not mention Chavez during her earlier statements in Colombia.

Rooftop fire empties casino

LAS VEGAS (AP) – A fire on the roof of the 32-story Monte Carlo hotel-casino forced guests and gamblers to flee and sent flaming debris raining down, but the blaze eased after about an hour and no serious injuries were reported.

The mid-morning fire quickly spread across the rooftop facade, made of a foam building material. Orange flames lapped at the hotel's name in large script.

Five people were hospitalized, including four who reported difficulty breathing and one with an unspecified minor injury, said John Wilson, general manager of ambulance companies American Medical Response and Medic West.

No bold plans in Bush speech

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a bow to political reality, President Bush's final State of the Union speech will skip bold proposals in favor of ones the country has heard before, a modest approach for a White House that prides itself on big ideas.

Bush's strategy reflects what he is up against: little time left in office, confrontational relations with a Democratic Congress and a diminishing role on the national stage.

White House aides say there is not much point in unveiling grand ideas sure to go nowhere.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

'Cash 5' prize at least $200,000

HARRISBURG (AP) – Saturday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $200,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Friday's game.

Lottery officials said 176 players matched four numbers and won $182 each; 4,634 players matched three numbers and won $7.50 each; and 44,458 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent

LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 2008

DAY PICK 3:	0-9-6
NIGHT PICK 3:	5-1-3
DAY PICK BIG 4:	0-2-1-2
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	6-3-6-8
TREASURE HUNT:	4-5-18-28-30
CASH 5:	1-4-7-23-24
MATCH 6:	2-5-18-26-31-34

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 2008

DAY PICK 3:	3-1-5
NIGHT PICK 3:	7-5-0
DAY PICK 4:	3-5-1-2
NIGHT PICK 4:	1-8-0-4
ROLLING CASH 5:	8-17-19-21-37

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 2008

DAILY 3:	6-8-8
DAILY 4:	8-2-6-8
CASH 25:	1-2-6-7-12-23

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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Cheers 'n Jeers

Here is a critical look at some of the events that helped shape life in the Mid-Mon Valley area during the past week:

For the loss of the annual Charleroi-Monessen football game, which will be eliminated next year because of conference realignments. With the Cougars moved to 10-team Interstate Conference, their nine regular season games are filled. The only way the teams could meet is in the 10th week if both miss the playoffs.

For the Mon Valley Branch of the NAACP, which is holding its annual tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King at 3 p.m. Sunday. The event will take place at the Antioch Baptist Church in Belle Vernon and will carry the theme, "With Your Help, We Can All Make a Difference and Continue the Building of the Dream."

To Gov. Ed Rendell for proposing stricter rules governing Pennsylvania dog kennels and puppy breeding farms. Rendell noted that the state has a reputation for "puppy mills," where young dogs are often treated poorly. Rendell's proposals include eliminating wire-cage flooring, increasing the minimum size of cages and mandating exercise provisions.

ANOTHER VIEW

Philadelphia Daily News on Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit:

Guess it was too good to be true.When state Rep. Dwight Evans, D-Philadelphia, first touted H.B. 377, a bill that would give low-income families up to $1,400 in a state Earned Income Tax Credit, legislators nearly broke their necks to jump on board.

The state EITC would come on top of a similar, successful federal tax credit. It was a powerful tool to fight poverty and stimulate the state's economy. Reaction at public hearings was overwhelmingly positive. Advocates for the poor were encouraged.

But the bill that passed last Thursday and moved over to the Senate is a tax-cut-laden abomination stuffed with amendments that only the greedy — not the needy — could love.

Among other things, the amendments, most of them proposed by Republicans, phase out the inheritance and estate tax through 2012; end gross-receipts tax on cell phones; exempt sales taxes for fees charged by humane groups that transfer custody and possession of animals; provide a new tax credit for diesel technology; increase research-and-development tax credits; decrease the corporate income-tax rate. The list goes on.

No, the amendments don't directly affect the EITC provision, but the blatant effort to tie tax cuts to a bill that tries to lift the people out of poverty is reprehensible, to say nothing of irresponsible. The Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center has estimated that if the major tax-cut amendments were in place now, they would take $3.8 billion from the state's $27.2 billion budget.

The work to make the state EITC a reality and deep-six the Christmas list of unreasonable tax cuts will occur in negotiations with the Senate.

One hurdle for the state EITC is cost: $25 million the first year and $250 million annually after that. It would equal 15 percent of the federal credit in its first year, and eventually reach 30 percent of the federal credit.

But if gradually phased in like Maryland's was in 1998, it won't be a burden on the state coffers.

Statewide, about 765,000 Pennsylvanians filed for the federal EITC in 2005. About 162,740 of those families were from Philadelphia, which has a 25 percent poverty rate.

The federal EITC program is one of the best weapons created to fight poverty.

A state EITC will be a solid addition to the arsenal, and not just an unsupportable ruse to win elections.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent,* Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Good-bye governor; hello 'CBK'

Brad **BUMSTED**

The words were still fresh on the Associated Press wire about Gov. Ed Rendell endorsing Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination when the chatter rose to a feverish pitch at the state Capitol about Rendell's future.

The move by Rendell last week increased the likelihood he will get an opportunity to garner a key federal Cabinet post if Clinton wins the presidency.

Rendell, the former Democratic National chairman, endorsed Clinton at what seems a critical juncture before the South Carolina primary. His fundraising prowess will boost her campaign and he helps in New Jersey, Delaware, and of course Pennsylvania if our primary indeed counts for anything in April.

The timing was perfect. Typical Rendell move — coming a week after he pumps it up with Republican Arnold Schwartzenegger, the California governor, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an independent, calling for increased investment in infrastructure.

Both events lend credence to Rendell having his eye on the national stage.

Being Hillary's vice presidential pick is possible but unlikely given the total Northeast flavor.

Rendell said emphatically in 2006 that his race for re-election as governor was his last.

"No vice president," he said recently after MSNBC's Chris Matthews was touting the wisdom of a Rendell vice presidential pick.

Rendell has said he would like to be considered for a post as Energy Secretary or Transportation Secretary.

But he has said repeatedly he will complete the final two years of his term.

Then again, this is the same guy who said repeatedly he would not endorse anyone in the Democratic primary for president.

So the buzz at the Capitol is if he gets the opportunity, he will go.

That leaves state government in the hands of his sidekick Catherine Baker Knoll.

The best-kept secret at the Capitol is that Knoll is incapable of running the state if called upon, her critics say. That is the main purpose of having a lieutenant governor — to be ready to take over as governor. Mark Singel served almost a year when the late Democratic Gov. Bob Casey was seriously ill and Mark Schweiker took over when former Republican Gov. Tom Ridge left to become the first Homeland Security chief.

Let's leave the claim she is incapable of governing to her critics, but this much is true:

"CBK" as she's called, isn't anywhere near Singel or Schweiker in competence. Not even close.

The idea that Rendell would leave and turn the reins over to Knoll would seem improbable given that would also mean a Republican, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati, R-Jefferson County, would become lieutenant governor.

Would Rendell want his legacy to be putting a Republican in line to govern?

Some Democratic insiders say he'd do it and wouldn't bat an eye.

All of this begs the question about the 2010 race.

Knoll has let it be known she's running for governor.

If she took over from Rendell through 2010, she might be able to win with name recognition and a "rose garden strategy" of running as an incumbent with a few carefully controlled appearances. With her grandmotherly image, she would be hard for anyone to attack because it might anger elderly voters.

Just ask Sen. Jane Earll, R-Erie, the GOP lieutenant governor candidate in 2002.

Asked why a debate had been held at a Pittsburgh hospital, Earll had quipped it was "in case" the then 72-year-old Knoll "had to be resuscitated."

That hurt Earll's image and provoked sympathy for Knoll.

So watch out!...CBK for governor in 2010.

How Democrats could lose

Cokie and Steve **ROBERTS**

A year from now the nation's 44th president will move into the Oval Office, and many signs point to a Democratic victory. Only one in three Americans approves of President Bush; three out of four say the country is headed in the wrong direction; one in four identifies with the GOP, the lowest rate in 24 years; in the early primaries, Democratic voters have far outnumbered Republicans.

This election, however, is far from over. The excitement generated in Democratic ranks contains the seeds of a very real problem. The party has produced two exceptional candidates, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Each one has a deep and devoted following. Each one can taste victory. Each one believes that she or he embodies the "audacity of hope" and can make history.

"We are at the cusp of turning the impossible into reality," declared Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. And while she was talking about the black supporters of Obama, she could have been talking about the female supporters of Clinton.

But one of these candidates has to lose. One group of ardent partisans will be grievously disappointed. One critical element of the Democratic coalition — women or blacks — will miss their chance to turn "the impossible into reality." And the bitter aftermath of that rejection could provide Republicans with their best, and perhaps their only, opportunity for victory.

Obviously, the losing Democratic candidate will endorse the winner. Obviously, few of his or her supporters will vote Republican in protest. But intensity matters in politics. How deep are the wounds? How quickly will they heal? How ready will the frustrated faction be to volunteer, to organize, to send money?

The whole point of a compressed primary schedule was to avoid exactly what's happening to the Democrats: a long and bruising battle that raises tempers, reduces treasuries and hands the enemy plenty of ammunition.

The conflict between Clinton and Obama is aggravated by the fact that they don't really disagree about issues. Sure, Clinton claims that her healthcare plan covers more people; Obama argues that he was quicker to oppose the Iraq war. But these are marginal distinctions.

As a result, both have been tempted to emphasize — and exaggerate — personal differences, trying to stir doubts about the other's integrity. And as the debate in South Carolina this week demonstrated, it's those personal clashes that trigger anger and animosity in both camps.

Obama attacks Clinton for serving on the board of Wal-Mart; she accuses him of doing legal work for an indicted slumlord. Both say the other is twisting records, trashing truths, tossing mud. As Rep. Jesse Jackson, an Obama backer, summed up the debate: "tough night." The real winners were the Republicans.

The primary campaign has done something else that has to worry Democrats: It has exposed the weaknesses of their leading candidates. Clinton wins women but loses men; she appeals to voters with less education and lower paychecks but not to the elites; Latinos like her but blacks don't.

She has too much baggage and not enough warmth, and about 45 percent of all voters consistently tell pollsters they can't stand her.

Obama's profile is almost the opposite. They love him in faculty clubs but not factories; students turn on but seniors turn off. Voters who care about experience remain deeply suspicious of his skimpy resume, making him more vulnerable to an "October surprise" — like a terrorist attack — that could suddenly change the political landscape. No one knows how race will play out in the privacy of a voting booth.

And both are running against history. Only two sitting senators have ever been elected president; the last northerner to win was John F. Kennedy 48 years ago; the last chief executive from New York was Franklin Roosevelt, the last from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln.

The final factor Democrats have to worry about is John McCain. Yes, he's also an incumbent senator, an elderly defender of an unpopular war with an incendiary temper and a lot of enemies.

But he's from the Southwest (eight of the last 11 elections have been won by Texans or Californians) and the only Republican with a demonstrated appeal to moderates and independents. In national polls, he narrowly edges both leading Democrats.

The odds still indicate that either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama will take the oath as the 44th president. But if the Democrats are stupid enough to keep lacerating each other, and the Republicans are shrewd enough to pick McCain, the outcome is by no means assured.

Steve and Cokie Roberts can be contacted by e-mail at stevecokie@gmail.com.

TV inspires 'Iron Chef' parties

Popular Food Network show can inspire amateur cooks.

By MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON
For The Associated Press

Like their television counterparts, the Lander family treats the secret ingredient with reverence.

It is concealed under a domed basket as it is carried into the family's gorgeously appointed kitchen. With great dramatic flourish, it is revealed to their eager guests.

Thus begins the cook-off, a reality television-inspired dinner party that pits guests against one another to create the most beautiful, original and best tasting dish using the secret ingredient.

Welcome to "Iron Chef," the home edition.

Since it began airing on the Food Network in 1999, the chef-vs.-chef competitive cooking show has become a pop culture phenomenon. And now it is invading the home dinner party.

After years of watching Japanese-made "Iron Chef" and its U.S. spinoffs, "Iron Chef America" and "The Next Iron Chef," in which pros rapidly prepare meals based on a single ingredient, amateur cooks have started staging food battles in their own kitchens.

"It's done with great fanfare," Eric Lander says of the "Iron Chef"-style dinner parties he and his wife and three children regularly host at their Cambridge, Mass., home.

"There's no time for recipes," says Lander, a 50-year-old scientist who worked on the Human Genome Project. "You're jockeying for burners, negotiating over shrimp. You draw on what you know."

> "There's no time for recipes. You're jockeying for burners, negotiating over shrimp. You draw on what you know."
>
> Eric Lander

The parties are a great way to bring together friends who share a passion for fine food and competition, says David Cavuto, who adapted the rules of the show for use at dinner parties. He's been hosting them since 2001.

Secret ingredients at Cavuto's parties have included cranberries, shiitake mushrooms and onions.

"I was really surprised," says the 34-year-old engineer from Edison, N.J. "People were more enthusiastic about coming to a dinner party where they participated in this formal way."

Diners are always looking for ways to make their meals more engaging, says Mitchell Davis, vice president of the James Beard Foundation in New York.

"We've been trained to expect a certain level of excitement from our food," he says. "In some ways just sitting down to dinner isn't enough for people."

Mike Slagle, a 26-year-old leadership trainer who once challenged a coworker to an "Iron Chef" contest, was drawn by "the challenge of it, trying to prepare multiple things with same basic ingredient in a short amount of time."

Participating in the competition was fun but stressful, says Michele Martin, whose recipe for potato cheese steak bested Slagle's spinach and Kalamata olive lasagna with ricotta and goat cheese in the competition. (The secret ingredient was cheese.)

"It's really kind of intense," says Martin, 27, who lives in Columbus, Ohio.

For the Landers, the competition continues after the food has been prepared. In a nod to the original show, they require participants to offer grandiose descriptions of their entrees.

Past guests have conjured up stories about recipes passed on by lost loves from distant continents, and dishes designed to make you "proud to be an American," says Lander.

Harvey Golden, a Cincinnati-based personal chef, says he's been asked to plan and judge "Iron Chef" parties. He says those clients usually have honed their skills in cooking classes and are looking to put them to the test.

Just as Americans push themselves on the ball field or in the office, they want to challenge themselves in the kitchen, says Dana Cowin, editor-in-chief of Food & Wine magazine.

"It's part of the nature of Americans," she says. "It does make sense that we would take it in the kitchen."

Associated Press

Eric Lander of Cambridge, Mass., tastes the dish he is working on, which was one of 24 prepared by hosts and guests during an Iron Chef dinner party in Cambridge, Mass.

And that's fine with Bruce Seidel, producer of "Iron Chef America" and a senior vice president at Food Network. He's thrilled that people are using the show as a model for entertaining at home.

In fact, the network even invites viewers to submit videos of their own competitions, and sometimes sends film crews out to capture them, posting the videos at http://www.howdoyouironchef.com.

"It's a canvas for people to grow their skills and show off," he said. "Food is a lifestyle."

SCHOOL MENUS

BELLE VERNON AREA

Breakfast

Daily – Cereal, super bun or doughnut, toaster pastry, toasted bun/peanut butter, assorted juices, fruit, assorted milks.

Monday – Fruit, waffle with sausage pattie and syrup.

Tuesday – Orange juice, English muffin with egg, ham and cheese.

Wednesday – Orange juice, breakfast sausage pizza.

Thursday – Orange juice, sausage and pancake stick with syrup.

Friday – Cold cereal with sugar, apple, cinnamon toast.

Lunch

Daily – Chef salad/roll, sliced turkey or ham/or peanut butter and jelly/or cheese on a roll, lettuce, tomato and pickle, fresh fruit, vegetable, milk.

Monday – Steak and cheese hoagie on bun, potato rounds/catsup, steamed peas, chilled applesauce.

Tuesday – Ham barbecue sandwich, oven fries/catsup, chicken noodle soup/crackers, chilled pineapple.

Wednesday – Baked chicken patty dinner/hot roll, mashed potatoes/gravy, steamed green beans, chilled peaches.

Thursday – Hard or soft taco/cheese/hot roll, shredded lettuce/salsa, taco sauce/steamed corn, chilled pears.

Friday – Cheese pizza (red or white) or garlic breadsticks/spaghetti sauce, with or without cheese sticks, tossed salad with dressing, chilled mixed fruit.

CALIFORNIA AREA

Breakfast

Daily – Milk.

Monday – Donut, cereal, juice.

Tuesday – Juice, cereal, Pop Tart.

Wednesday – Super cinnamon bun, cereal, juice.

Thursday – Waffle or French toast sticks, syrup, juice, cereal.

Friday – Cereal, juice, funnel cake/powdered sugar.

Lunch

Daily – Tuna or peanut butter sandwich, milk.

Monday – Hamburger/cheeseburger, French fries, assorted fruit.

Tuesday – Nacho with beef and cheese sauce, salsa, corn, assorted fruit.

Wednesday – Stromboli/sauce, tossed green salad, Fruit Shape Up.

Thursday – Salisbury steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, roll, carrot sticks, assorted pudding.

Friday – Pizza or garlic pizza, green beans, assorted fruit.

CHARLEROI AREA

Breakfast

Daily – Cereal or yogurt with muffin, juice, milk.

Monday – Yogurt and toast slice.

Tuesday – Ham and cheese bagel.

Wednesday – Breakfast pizza.

Thursday – Country breakfast.

Friday – February menus not submitted.

Lunch

Daily – Milk.

Monday – Popcorn chicken with dipping sauce and wheat bread or meatball hoagie with cheese, baked beans, applesauce.

Tuesday – Pizza dipping strips or grilled cheese sandwich, fries, tomato soup, fresh fruit.

Wednesday – Philly steak hoagie or Salisbury steak with gravy and roll, mashed potatoes, pears.

Thursday – Breaded chicken patty on a bun or chicken Ala King over biscuit, carrots, peaches.

Friday – February menus not submitted.

GEIBEL CATHOLIC

Lunch

Daily – Milk.

Monday – General Tso's chicken, vegetable, fortune cookie.

Tuesday – Pizza, fries, vegetable, cheesecake.

Wednesday – Baked chicken, potatoes au gratin, vegetable, dessert.

Thursday – Pirogies, potato wedge, beets, dessert.

Friday – Grilled cheese, tomato soup, tater tots, dessert.

MADONNA CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOL

Breakfast

Daily – Cereal, toast, milk.

Monday – Breakfast Hot Pocket.

Tuesday – Pancakes.

Wednesday – Sausage and cheese bagel.

Thursday – French toast sticks.

Friday – Egg and cheese bagel.

Lunch

Daily – Chicken patty, chilled fruit, milk.

Monday – Popcorn chicken with mini biscuit, oven potatoes, vegetable.

Tuesday – Manwich on a bun, oven potatoes, pudding.

Wednesday – Garlic breadsticks with dipping sauce, meatballs, vegetable, yogurt.

Thursday – Sliced ham with roll, vegetable, dessert.

Friday – Hot dog on a bun, oven potatoes, juice bar.

MONESSEN

Breakfast

Daily – Cereal with graham crackers, fruit juice, milk.

Monday – Sausage and cheese muffin.

Tuesday – Flapstick with syrup.

Wednesday – Breakfast pizza.

Thursday – Cinnamon roll.

Friday – Funnel cake.

Lunch

Daily – Fruit choice, milk.

Monday – Chicken stir-fry over rice or BBQ rib sandwich, French fries or mixed vegetables.

Tuesday – Chili and cheese dog or hard shell taco, French fries or green beans.

Wednesday – Baked potato bar or pizzaburger, scalloped potatoes or broccoli.

Thursday – Italian dunkers or hot ham and cheese sandwich, French fries or mashed potatoes.

Friday – Salisbury steak with rice or buffalo chicken pizza, carrot sticks with dip, juice bar.

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2. Color or black/white 4x6 photos will be accepted. Photos can not be returned, but will be available for pick up from April 1, 2008 through April, 30, 2008 at the Valley Independent.
3. All entries must be received by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, February 6, 2008.
4. Only one pet per photo and one photo per entry will be accepted. We will not accept any photo containing humans.
5. Valley Independent readers will cast their votes for their favorite pet photos by ballots made available in the Valley Independent publication, online at http://www.valleyindependent.com/ or at the main lobby of the Valley Independent.
6. Contest will consist of three voting rounds. First round will commence Tuesday, February 11, 2008 and voting will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 22, 2008. Round two, consisting of top vote recipients, will commence on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 and voting will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 14, 2008. Round three, consisting of top vote recipients, will commence on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 and voting will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 28, 2008. Winners will be announced on April 8, 2008.
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11. Additional rules and regulations may apply.

Cordon bleu can work for beef

Popular chicken dish can be easily adapted.

By J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

If you can do it to a chicken, why not a cow?

That was the philosophy behind this attempt to create a beef version of chicken cordon bleu. It turned out to be easier, faster and far tastier than expected.

The result was a thin-cut London broil wrapped around blue cheese, pine nuts, roasted garlic and spinach. Seared quickly on the stove and finished in the oven, these steaks can be on your table in about 35 minutes.

When selecting your steaks, aim for nothing thicker than a third of an inch. Sirloin bottom was nice, but you may need to have the butcher cut them. Thin-cut London broil steaks are widely available at most grocer's meat counter.

While other greens and nuts can be substituted for the spinach and pine nuts in the filling, it's best to stick with blue cheese. You want a cheese that won't ooze much as it heats.

If you want to add even more flavor, consider marinating the steaks before stuffing and rolling them.

Ten minutes in a marinade of three parts red wine and one part soy sauce should work nicely.

BLUE CHEESE-STUFFED LONDON BROIL

Start to finish: 35 minutes
Servings: 4

10-ounce bag frozen chopped spinach, thawed
1/4 cup pine nuts
4 ounces blue cheese
2 tablespoons minced roasted garlic
1 1/2 pounds thin-sliced London broil (4 thin steaks)
2 tablespoons olive oil

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Place the thawed spinach in the center of a kitchen towel. Holding the towel over the sink, twist it to squeeze excess water out of the spinach. Open the towel and place the spinach in a food processor.

Add the pine nuts, blue cheese and garlic to the food processor. Pulse until the ingredients form a thick paste about 10 seconds.

Arrange the steaks on a work surface. Use your fingers or a silicone spatula to spread a quarter of the cheese and spinach mixture in an even layer over each steak.

One at a time, roll the steaks into a cylinder. Use kitchen twine to tie each end of the rolls.

In a large, deep skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the steak rolls and sear on one side for about 1 1/2 minutes. Use tongs to rotate the rolls slightly, searing for another 1 1/2 minutes. Continue until all sides are seared.

Transfer the rolls to a rimmed baking sheet and place in the oven to roast for 15 to 20 minutes, or until an instant read thermometer inserted in the center of the rolls reads 140 F for medium.

Nutrition information per serving: 498 calories; 31 g fat (10 g saturated); 79 mg cholesterol; 7 g carbohydrate; 47 g protein; 3 g fiber; 556 mg sodium.

Associated Press

Blue Cheese-stuffed London Broil is a beefy take on the classic chicken cordon bleu.

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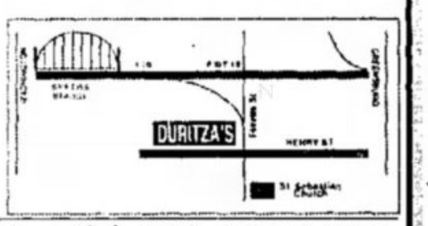

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Malkin new leader

Evgeni Malkin is filling the void left by an injury to Penguins star Sidney Crosby. **4B**

Valley SPORTS

Tiger winning big

Tiger Woods jumped to an early four-stroke lead at the Buick Invitational. **2B**

Bay not optimistic

Outfielder Jason Bay says the Pirates' quiet winter will likely lead to another losing season. **2B**

Sports Trivia

Who holds the Super Bowl record with 58 passes in a game? **2B**

Last night's scores

Toronto 106, Milwaukee 75
Phoenix 110, Cleveland 108
Washington 104, Memphis 93
Detroit 101, Orlando 93
Boston 87, Minnesota 86
New York 89, Philadelphia 81

Brian **HERMAN**

BVA, Rood at home in Big Seven

Cleaning out the notebook:

■ Seventeen years.

That's how long Belle Vernon Area's football team was a member of the Keystone Conference until being moved out this week and placed in the Big Seven.

In that span, the Leps had five coaches starting with Bill Connors in 1990 followed by Tony Ruscitto, Gary Dongilli, Jesse Cramer and Lou Rood in that order.

No one was more successful than Dongilli, who won an unprecedented seven Keystone championships in as many years and went 47-1 in conference games.

Two of those years (1998-99) the Leps were in the Keystone-Big Nine, which also showed Thomas Jefferson, West Mifflin. Elizabeth Forward, McGuffey, Peters Township, Mt. Pleasant, Yough and Southmoreland.

The revised Big Seven consists of BVA, Ringgold, Elizabeth Forward, Thomas Jefferson, Trinity, Chartiers Valley and West Mifflin.

Even though his team will be facing much tougher competition, Rood isn't complaining as he eyes his third season as the Leps' boss.

"It was the conference I played in and where we had our natural rivalries," he said.

An All-Big 10 center for the Leps in 1971, Rood went against Ringgold, Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth Forward, Monessen, Charleroi, Brownsville, Clairton, Laurel Highlands and South Allegheny.

Add BVA: Rood came up with a pair of interesting scrimmages in 2008.

The first will be Aug. 16 in Glassport against South Allegheny. The Glads have a new coach in Pat Monroe, the former Duquesne mentor who lost his job when the school closed the past year.

The second will be at West Allegheny Aug. 22.

It was West Allegheny that ended the Leps' season in 2007 with a 38-18 victory at Jim Weir Stadium in the first round of the WPIAL Class AAA playoffs.

"I've always had a good relationship with Bob Palko (the Indians' coach)," said Rood. "It should be a nice test and get us ready for the season.

■ Ringgold's 2008 football opener will be at home with Peters Township Aug. 29 with the Rams visiting the Indians in the 2009 lidlifter.

■ The next boxer to step into the ring with Monessen's Michael Moorer will be Shelby Gross Feb. 8 at the Shaikh Rashid Hall in the Dubai World Trade Center.

Gross, 35, has a 16-3 record with 13 of his wins by knockouts. His last fight was a second round knockout of Bobby Gunn in Nashville, Tenn., in 2006 which was ruled a no-contest when the post-fight drug test revealed marijuana in Gross' system.

In that fight, Gross overcame two knockdowns, the second of which was helped by the longest nine-count in boxing history, to drop Gunn three times.

■ And thanks to Aldo Bartolotta, of Monongahela, who says the best reason for doing the right thing today is tomorrow!

Leps are section champs

BVA wraps up title with 52-51 victory over Thomas Jefferson.

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

JEFFERSON HILLS — Prior to the season, Belle Vernon Area coach John Dudzinski and his staff let senior captains Jacob Dudzinski and John Naylor pick the team's goals for the season.

The goals were to make the playoffs, win the Class AAA Section 5 title, and to do well in the playoffs.

Following the Leopards' 52-51 win at Thomas Jefferson Friday, the team has accomplished the first two goals.

"This feels darn good," the elder Dudzinski said. "They are a rugged defensive team and we are going to face teams like this in the playoffs."

The win guarantees BVA (16-5, 7-1) at least a share of its first section title since 2001.

The Leps came out on fire in the first quarter as they exploded to a 23-6 lead after eight minutes.

In the opening frame, freshman Bo Lustig hit two of BVA's four three-pointers.

"We came out excited and did a good job on the offensive boards," Dudzinski said of his team which grabbed eight offensive boards in the opening frame.

"We knew that we wouldn't put the game away in the first quarter and TJ settled in during the second quarter. Then it became a game."

Brock DiCicco scored eight of his 19 points for TJ (6-12, 4-4) during the second quarter to help the hosts trim the BVA lead to 26-20 at halftime.

The Leps only hit one basket both the second and third quarters.

"Their defense stepped up," Dudzinski said in explaining his team's offensive woes in the middle 16 minutes.

"But we also were taking bad shots and turning the ball over."

BVA was still able to maintain a 34-33 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

During the closing 7:03, there were six ties and seven lead changes.

In the fourth quarter, Dudzinski (five of six) and Lustig (four of four) combined to go nine of 10 from the line to keep BVA in the game.

With BVA trailing 51-50 with 1:21 left, Dudzinski drove to the hole, hit the basket, and was fouled by DiCicco, but the officials did not count the basket.

DiCicco fouled out on the play and finished with 19 points and 15 rebounds, including 10 of the offensive variety.

Dudzinski made the first free throw to tie the game, but missed the second.

TJ grabbed the rebound and called a timeout. The Jaguars set up to play for one shot, but Trevor Wildman missed a three-pointer with 21 seconds to go.

BVA grabbed the rebound and moved upcourt.

Wildman was then called for a foul on Dudzinski despite being on the floor as the BVA senior tried to pass him. Dudzinski made the first free throw but missed the second, giving TJ a chance to win the game.

The hosts missed a shot and Jimmy Giansante grabbed the offensive rebound and missed a six-foot jumper as time expired.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Thomas Jefferson's Dean Langholz, left, and Belle Vernon Area's Josh Pohlot battle for the ball Friday night.

"Fortunately we scored last," the elder Dudzinski said. "And we played solid defense at the end."

BVA heads to Elizabeth Forward Tuesday looking to win the section title outright.

NOTES: Dudzinski (18), John Naylor (12), Josh Pohlot (10) and Lustig (10) hit double figures for the Leps. Naylor added 13 rebounds .. BVA's shooting percentage by quarters was 41 percent, 12 percent, 10 percent and 44 percent. Dean Langholz (14 points) and Steve Licht (10) also hit double figures for TJ.

Hounds look ahead after clinching

Greyhounds blast Waynesburg, but the focus is on Washington.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

Thanks to Burgettstown's 49-45 win over Washington, Monessen clinched at least a share of the Class AA Section 5 title with Friday's 94-41 rout of visiting Waynesburg.

Regardless, Monessen coach Joe Salvino is looking ahead to Tuesday's game at second-place Washington.

"I'm excited about going to Washington because it's a true test for us and hard place to play," he said. "That game will get us ready for the playoffs.

Joe Salvino

"It's easy to play well at home but you have to play with that atmosphere away."

The Greyhounds weren't tested this week at home, making history by posting back-to-back continuous running clock victories for the first time after building up 40-point leads against Charleroi and the Raiders.

Monessen (17-4, 12-0) didn't start out like it was going to enjoy its highest scoring game of the season.

The Greyhounds had only five points in the opening four minutes before erupting for 46 in the next 12 minutes to turn a 6-5 deficit into a commanding 51-27 halftime lead.

Monessen widened the margin to 73-39 going to the fourth quarter before Tim Tyree's three-pointer with 6:18 remaining made it 81-39 for the Greyhounds' 42-point advantage.

Four players scored in double figures for Monessen which hit the 90s for the second time this season. The first was at Waynesburg ina 34-point win.

Freshman Terrance Stepoli led the way with 19 points including 11 in the second quarter. Stepoli also had a game-high 10 rebounds.

Tyree followed with 17 points and also dished out 10 assists.

Delmar Pritchett, making his first start, and sophomore reserve David Jeffries both added 15 points.

"Delmar gives us more quickness," noted Salvino.

Jeffries scored 10 of his points in the first quarter after entering the game midway in the period.

With 11 points, John Sinnott was the lone player in double figures for Waynesburg (3-16, 1-11).

The win was a season-best ninth straight for Monessen and 17th in the Greyhounds' last 18 games. The loss was to Class AAAA Upper St. Clair.

After the Washington game, the Greyhounds close the regular season Friday at home with Brownsville.

"Winning the section is very important," said Salvino. "We just want to get better each game."

NOTES: The Greyhounds made 11 treys with Jeffries leading the way with three. Ten players scored for Monessen. Monessen is 7-1 at home.

Trojans rake Maples for section title

Donte Valentino's 26 points lead Cal to 54-51 victory.

BY JEREMY SELLEW
For The Valley Independent

COAL CENTER — The California Trojans knew going into their Class A Section 2 matchup with Mapletown that they were going to get the Maples' best effort.

The Trojans did indeed take Mapletown's best shot, but were able to hang on and win 54-51, clinching their second consecutive section championship.

"It was the same type of game as it was at their place," Trojans coach Phil Pergola said. "We didn't break it open until the end of the game. We know what they're going to do, and they know what we're going to do."

The Maples (9-10, 3-4) knew what they had to do, and that was gamble and try to take one of California's leading scorers out of the flow of the game, either 6-6 Travis VanOlst or 5-7 Donte Valentino.

Maples' coach Adam Checton chose VanOlst, using his team's size to their advantage. That was a mistake.

Valentino torched the Maples for a game-high 26 points, while VanOlst and junior Jordan Michaux both added 10 to lead the Trojans (13-4, 8-0).

"When he (Valentino) has the ball in his hands you never know what is going to happen," Pergola said.

Checton couldn't argue with that.

"Our outlook coming in was very upbeat," Checton said. "You got Donte and VanOlst on the same team; you have to take away somebody. Our big guys did a good job against him, but Donte's probably the quickest player we'll ever see."

It was a game of scoring runs as Mapletown jumped out to a 7-3 lead, but an 8-1 run by the Trojans gave them an 11-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Maples jump back up by a point on a Warren Dickerson jumper, but the Trojans answered with a 14-4 run to take a 27-18 lead into the half.

"It was a game of spurts," Pergola said.

The second half saw the California lead extend to 16 when Valentino converted a steal and layup, but the Maples weren't going to roll over.

The Maples erased an 11-point deficit going into the fourth thanks to the stout play of 6-6 senior Ryan Wilson. Wilson scored eight of his team-high 15 in the quarter during a 14-4 Maples' run.

California successfully maintained its lead, thanks to a Ben Carson lay-up with 1:32 remaining. The Maples' Jarrett Porterfield answered, only to have Valentino nail two free throws to extend the lead to four at 52-48.

Ethan Kovach, who tallied 14 points for the Maples, nailed a 3-pointer with 48 seconds left, but Valentino answered going coast-to-coast to make the score 54-51.

A desperation three-pointer at the buzzer by the Maples' Jake Shifflett rimmed out, clinching the win and the section for the Trojans.

With the section championship in hand, Pergola hopes that his team won't relax or suffer a letdown.

"It's nice to have the back-to-back section titles," Pergola said. "We're very happy for that, but I hope we don't relax. We certainly didn't play that way tonight."

NOTES: The Trojans host Bentworth tonight in a game that can have significant implications on playoff seeding ... The Bearcats beat the Trojans 75-58 in the Charleroi holiday tournament ... Valentino went 5-for-5 from the free throw line, while Mapletown as a team went 4-for-8 ... The Trojans played without sophomore forward Dominic Roach who was out with an injury.

Bay: Pirates need better players

Outfielder disappointed by team's lack of offseason activity.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Near the end of last season, and the season before that, outfielder Jason Bay said the Pittsburgh Pirates needed major changes before they could win.

With spring training starting in three weeks, Bay said Friday he still doesn't think these Pirates are ready to be a contender after making only a few cosmetic offseason adjustments.

No major league team of recent vintage lost as many games as the Pirates (67-94) did last season and returned the following season nearly intact but, barring any major spring training moves, these Pirates will.

"I said I think it's pretty obvious that this group of guys is not going to get it done," Bay said. "Some people think if we get to .500, that would be great and that would be a nice pat on the back. As a player, that's not very comforting — ultimately your goal is to get to the playoffs and win a championship. If you look at the team right now, I don't know if we're set up to be a championship team.

The lack of moves is a major disappointment to Bay and some other Pirates players who don't want to play a role in what would be a major league record-tying 16th consecutive losing season.

"I'm not saying we're terrible, but it's going to take a lot of things going right to do some things," Bay said.

The Pirates have signed only one free agent, utility infielder Chris Gomez for $1 million. On paper, they look weaker than last season's team after losing relievers Salomon Torres and Shawn Chacon and bench players Josh Phelps and Matt Kata without replacing them.

"What are you going to do? You've still got to go out there, but there's not a lot of expectations for us, even if that works to our advantage," Bay said. "I think we also understand it's going to take a lot of guys staying healthy, and not just being good but being great, to try to get us over a little bit of a hump."

Right-hander Matt Morris, who has pitched on a number of winning teams, also saw the Pirates' deficiencies after being traded to them late last season.

"It's just going to take a lot for this team, over this six months, to be able to compete every day," Morris said.

The Pirates ownership plans to keep the payroll at last year's level of about $51 million or slightly more, or far less than any other NL Central team is spending.

General manager Neal Huntington, hired only 10 days before last season ended, has a better understanding of how unhappy some fans are with the smallish payroll and the nonstop losing. Several fans cornered him at a recent Pirates caravan stop in Weirton, W.Va., and asked — using a few choice words — why he wasn't doing anything.

"It would have been easy to sign a free agent and make a splash, to get a positive newspaper headline, but we're not going to spend $50,000 for a used car that's worth $20,000," Huntington said. "We're also not going to make a trade just for the sake of making a trade."

Part of the Pirates' problem in the past, Huntington said, is they didn't make "good baseball decisions."

New team president Frank Coonelly also doesn't like how the club was run in the past. Among his criticisms are that some players reported to spring training out of shape, the clubhouse lacked an atmosphere that was conducive to winning and the franchise overspent on free agents simply to quiet media talk they weren't doing enough to get better.

"No team underperformed more than the Pirates did (in 2007)," Coonelly said Friday, speaking at a media gathering in which nearly a dozen players from last season were in the room.

To Bay, the losing — and he's not talking only about getting above .500 — won't end until the Pirates get better players.

"You talk to people at these things and everyone is in the best shape of their life — all that's great, but it's your job to be in the best shape of your life," Bay said. "I really don't know if that carries a ton of weight. Ultimately, if a guy reports in the worst shape of his life and goes out and performs, nobody cares."

Outfielder Xavier Nady, like Bay, believes the Pirates simply need more talent.

"This is too good of a franchise ...

Jason Bay

to go through this," Nady said. "It just gets old. It's the same thing you tell all your buddies. We have a good group of guys, we play well at times but when it comes down to it, we really struggle, and there needs to be some changes."

Tiger's already at the top of his game

Woods take 4-shot lead in pursuit of fourth straight Buick Invitational title.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kevin Streelman had his head down as he rapped a few putts to kill time, realizing that as third alternate at the Buick Invitational, the 29-year-old rookie probably would get a chance to play.

When he looked up, he was startled to see Tiger Woods in front of him.

"I was kind of awestruck for a second and I said, 'Wow, I guess I am on the PGA Tour,'" he said. "It was pretty cool."

It might be even more jarring to see Woods on the first tee in the final group today at Torrey Pines.

Woods made short work of the North Course on Friday with a 7-under 65, giving him a four-shot lead as he tries to win the Buick Invitational for the fourth straight year. Adding to his odds is being a chased by a rookie who's just happy to be here.

Streelman was the last alternate to get in, opened with a 67, then made it around the tough South Course on Friday with a 69 that put him in second place on the leaderboard, and under a big spotlight on the weekend.

"Obviously, it's going to be a huge ordeal out there, but it's going to be great," Streelman said. "If I play great, great. If I don't, it's going to be a tremendous learning experience."

For Woods, it was old hat.

He chipped in for par, escaped from a couple of trees and matched his best start ever at Torrey Pines at 12-under 132.

The hard part might be reminding himself the tournament ends Sunday.

"If they handed out the trophy today, then it would be over and no big deal," Woods said. "But since we have so many more holes to play ... as you've seen on tour, anything can happen."

In this case, "anyone" might be more appropriate.

The world's No. 1 player said he had never heard of Streelman, and when told that he was No. 1,354 in the world ranking, Woods replied, "I think he might be going up."

Joining them will be Stewart Cink, who shot a 69 on the South and was another shot back at 7-under 137.

Troy Matteson got turned in the wrong direction. After a 65 on the South Course that he said he couldn't top, he was 10 shots worse on the North Course, shooting a 75 to fall eight shots behind.

For the second time in three weeks, nearly 20 guys left town with last-place money and no tee time.

The cut of top 70 and ties amounted to 85 players, and because that number exceeded 78, only 66 players advanced to the weekend. Among the casualties were Kenny Perry, Chris DiMarco and Jay Williamson, who was one of six players who signed a petition at the Sony Open to get rid of the new cut policy.

Tiger Woods

Fueling their frustration is that Jose Maria Olazabal won the Buick Invitational in 2002 after making the cut on the number. But that year, Olazabal was only eight shots behind the co-leaders, J.L. Lewis and Kent Jones.

The 19 players who made the cut and can't play the weekend were 13 shots behind Woods, who is turning this Pacific property into his personal playground.

Rams wrap up spot in playoffs with 49-33 win

Brownlee and Bassi lead Ringgold to the post-season.

Make room for Ringgold's basketball team in the WPIAL playoffs.

The Rams clinched a spot in the post-season for the first time in 10 years with a 49-33 victory over visiting McGuffey Friday in Class AAA Section 4.

R.J. Brownlee (14) and Dave Bassi (12) combined for 26 points for the third place Rams (7-15, 4-4).

Brownlee scored eight points in the first quarter as the Rams jumped out to a 20-8 lead and widened the margin to 30-15 at halftime.

High for McGuffey (3-16, 0-8) was Luke Baker with 13 points.

Ringgold goes to Keystone Oaks Tuesday.

Charleroi kept its playoff hopes alive with a come-from-behind 49-46 win over visiting Beth-Center.

The Cougars (11-10, 6-6) spotted the Bulldogs an 11-2 first quarter lead and were down 33-29 going into the final eight minutes before outscoring Beth-Center, 20-13.

Charleroi's Chad Pappasergi scored all nine of his points in the fourth quarter when he hit three treys.

Taylor Andrisko led Charleroi with 22 points including all 13 of the Cougars' second quarter points. Andrisko made four of Charleroi's eight treys.

Ethan Hank added 11 points for Charleroi.

Ryne Niemiec took game honors with 26 points for Beth-Center (3-18, 0-12).

Charleroi goes to Burgettstown Tuesday.

In Class AAA Section 5, Yough kept its playoff hopes alive with a 70-65 victory at West Mifflin.

Ben Hoffer had 25 points for the Cougars (7-13, 3-5), who spotted the Titans a 23-18 first quarter lead.

Adam Matvya (1), Chris Altman (12) and Mike Bashioum (10) followed as Yough beat the Titans for the second time.

Rashad Washington poured in 32 points for West Mifflin (9-9, 4-4).

Yough, which trails West Mifflin and Thomas Jefferson by one game for the final two playoff spots, hosts second place Steel Valley before closing at front-running Belle Vernon Area.

In another Section 5 game, Elizabeth Forward was a 68-58 loser at Steel Valley.

The Warriors' Jared Cunning topped all scorers with 25 points.

Ryan Sabo was high for Steel Valley with 17 points.

Elizabeth Forward (5-16,1-7) hosts Belle Vernon Area Tuesday.

In Class A Section 3, Cornell routed Frazier, 87-39, as Brett Gibson (18) and Rob Carpenter (17) teamed for 35 points.

Cornell led 61-20 at halftime.

Frank Bartolomucci and Eric Rock looked best for Frazier (2-17, 0-10) with 17 and 13 points, respectively.

The Commodores host Clairton Tuesday.

Basketball roundup

Sharapova wins Australian Open title

By JOHN PYE
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Maria Sharapova won the Australian Open without losing a set, wrapping up her third Grand Slam title with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Ana Ivanovic today.

The fifth-seeded Sharapova was back in a final at a major for the first time since her 6-1, 6-2 loss to Serena Williams last year at Melbourne Park and determined to make amends for that against a fellow 20-year-old.

The Russian star was aggressive from the start and, apart from one bad service game in the first set that allowed Ivanovic back to 4-4, controlled the important points against a Serbian player for the second consecutive match.

Sharapova beat No. 3 Jelena Jankovic in the semifinals after ending top-ranked Justine Henin's 32-match winning streak in the quarterfinals.

Ivanovic is 0-2 in Grand Slam finals — she lost the French Open championship match to Henin last year.

Ivanovic, seeded fourth, saved two match points but sprayed a forehand wide to give Sharapova the title, to go with her wins at Wimbledon in 2004 and the 2006 U.S. Open.

On a hot, sunny day with temperatures reaching 93 degrees, people in the crowd were fanning themselves, and Sharapova retreated to the shade behind the baselines to gather herself between points.

It was Australia Day, so organizers put small national flags at each seat. But there were plenty of Serbian and Russian flags, too.

Most of the signs scattered around packed Rod Laver Arena were pretty clear, including one that said "Quiet please Maria," referring to Sharapova's high-pitched grunts that get louder and louder as pressure rises.

Both players showed some nerves in the first set, with Ivanovic particularly shaky, committing 19 unforced errors to just six winners.

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SPORTS DIGEST

Seven Thunder All-Star selections

Seven Mon Valley Thunder players were named to the Class A Mid-Atlantic League All-Star Games scheduled Feb. 5-6 at the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena.

They include goalie Dustin MacDonald, forwards Gary Klapkowski, Joey Olson, Darren Seid and K.C. Hahey and defensemen Brian Jacque and James Matthews.

Olson and Klapkowski were selected but are on recall.

Jacque and MacDonald were named starters.

Monessen cagers down Trinity

Monessen Junior High's basketball team upped its record to 13-3 with a 52-40 win over Trinity.

Jeff Francia (11), Jalen Madison (10) and Trae Cook (10) combined for 31 points for the Little Greyhounds, who host Washington Monday.

Charleroi cagers lose in overtime

Aaron Piot (21) and Vinnie Scirotto (17) combined for 38 points but it wasn't enough as Charleroi Junior High's basketball team lost in overtime to Waynesburg, 54-50. The Little Cougars are 11-4.

Garcia replaces Favre on Pro Bowl roster

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Jeff Garcia is headed to the Pro Bowl for the fourth time, replacing Green Bay's Brett Favre on the NFC roster.

Favre, who was chosen as the starter for the annual all-star game, had said he was unsure whether he would play after leading the Packers to the NFC championship game.

Garcia signed with Tampa Bay as a free agent last winter and led the team to the NFC South title. He made three consecutive appearances in the Pro Bowl from 2000-02 with the 49ers.

Garcia completed 63.9 percent of his passes and threw 13 touchdowns against just four interceptions in 13 starts. He began the season with a stretch 197 consecutive attempts without an interception, a Bucs record.

The other NFC quarterbacks are Tony Romo and Matt Hasselbeck. Garcia is the only Tampa Bay player making the trip to Hawaii.

Response to mistake blasted

Carson-Newman coach Dale Clayton and athletic director David Barger criticized the South Atlantic Conference's response to an official's mistake in the Eagles' 83-82 loss to Wingate last week.

In the second half, Wingate's Brian Grier was credited with two points on a shot that did not enter the basket.

Two days later, the conference issued a statement that said the officials had been disciplined, but the final score would stand.

Trivia answer

Buffalo's Jim Kelly against Washington in Super Bowl XXVI.

SPORTS

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	28	18	3	59	125	115
Philadelphia	27	16	5	59	160	138
Pittsburgh	27	18	4	58	143	133
N.Y. Islanders	24	20	6	54	124	141
N.Y. Rangers	24	21	6	54	124	129

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	31	15	4	66	174	145
Montreal	26	15	8	60	154	136
Boston	25	19	5	55	129	133
Buffalo	21	21	6	48	142	139
Toronto	20	23	8	48	142	164

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	24	24	4	52	158	170
Washington	23	22	5	51	147	156
Atlanta	23	25	4	50	141	175
Florida	22	24	5	49	130	147
Tampa Bay	20	25	5	45	145	168

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	37	10	4	78	174	110
Columbus	25	20	6	56	128	126
Nashville	25	20	5	55	146	138
St. Louis	22	19	7	51	123	136
Chicago	23	23	4	50	139	143

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	28	19	3	59	138	138
Calgary	25	17	8	58	146	143
Vancouver	26	19	5	57	131	121
Colorado	26	20	4	56	138	138
Edmonton	23	24	5	51	140	158

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	28	20	5	61	154	138
San Jose	27	15	7	61	129	119
Anaheim	27	20	6	60	135	137
Phoenix	26	21	2	54	135	134
Los Angeles	20	29	2	42	143	169

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Friday's Games

No games scheduled

Today's Games

No games scheduled

Sunday's Game

All-Star Game at Atlanta, 6 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Hockey League

	W	L	T	Pts
Indiana	24	1	0	48
Wooster	13	10	2	28
Mon Valley	10	13	3	23
Jamestown	11	16	0	22
Valley Forge	7	18	2	16

Friday

Jamestown 4, Valley Forge 2

Today

Jamestown at Indiana
Wooster at Valley Forge

Sunday

Mon Valley at Indiana (4 p.m.)

PSAC standings

Men

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
California	2	0	11	4
Edinboro	2	0	12	4
Indiana	2	0	10	7
Clarion	1	2	9	8
Slippery Rock	1	2	3	14
Lock Haven	1	2	1	16
Shippensburg	0	3	6	12

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Kutztown	3	0	11	5
East Stroudsburg	2	0	13	3
Millersville	2	1	12	5
Cheyney	2	1	9	6
Mansfield	0	2	13	4
West Chester	0	2	8	8
Bloomsburg	0	3	8	9

Today

California at Lock Haven (3 p.m.)
Indiana at Edinboro
Shippensburg at Clarion
Kutztown at Bloomsburg
Cheyney at Mansfield
East Stroudsburg at West Chester

Women

Western Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Indiana	2	0	17	1
California	2	0	15	2
Shippensburg	2	1	14	4
Edinboro	1	1	11	5
Clarion	1	2	11	6
Slippery Rock	1	2	7	11
Lock Haven	0	3	5	12

Eastern Division

	PSAC W	PSAC L	Overall W	Overall L
Millersville	3	0	13	4
East Stroudsburg	2	0	8	8
West Chester	1	1	9	7
Kutzown	1	2	8	10
Bloomsburg	1	2	5	12
Cheyney	1	2	4	12
Mansfield	0	2	5	12

Today

California at Lock Haven (1 p.m.)
Indiana at Edinboro
Shippensburg at Clarion
Kutztown at Bloomsburg
Cheyney at Mansfield
East Stroudsburg st West Chester

College basketball scores

MEN

EAST

Fairfield 70, Canisius 51
Fairleigh Dickinson 70, Monmouth, N.J. 66
Niagara 79, St. Peter's 59
Vermont 70, Boston U. 57

SOUTH

ETSU 83, Jacksonville 77
S.C.-Upstate 53, North Florida 52

MIDWEST

N. Dakota St. 90, S. Dakota St. 63

FAR WEST

Idaho St. 86, Sacramento St. 63
N. Arizona 69, Weber St. 56
Portland 73, CS Bakersfield 63

WOMEN

Canisius 51, Manhattan 48
Fairfield 69, Rider 59
Iona 73, Loyola, Md. 68
Marist 78, Siena 48
Niagara 67, St. Peter's 59

SOUTH

ETSU 57, North Florida 39
Jacksonville 66, S.C.-Upstate 65
N.C. State 60, Virginia Tech 50
Southern Miss. 84, UCF 62

MIDWEST

Illinois St. 95, Missouri St. 59
Wichita St. 74, Indiana St. 66

Roy Hibbert and Georgetown will face West Virginia at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

Weekend sports dial

Today

Television

Noon - Channel 4 - Notre Dame at Villanova, college basketball.

Noon - ESPN - Gonzaga at Memphis, college basketball.

1 p.m. - Channel 2 - Connecticut at Indiana, college basketball.

1 p.m. - Channel 53 - Rolex 24 at Daytona, auto racing.

2 p.m. - ESPN - Texas A&M at Oklahoma State, college basketball.

2 p.m. - Fox Sports - St. John's at Syracuse, women's college basketball.

3 p.m. - Channel 2 - Buick Invitational, golf.

3 p.m. - ESPN2 - Southeast Missouri State at Murray State, college basketball.

4 p.m. - Channel 11 - U.S. Championships, figure skating.

4 p.m. - ESPN - Wisconsin at Purdue, college basketball.

4 p.m. - Fox Sports - Central Connecticut State at St. Francis, college basketball.

4 p.m. - Versus - UNLV at San Diego State, college basketball.

5 p.m. - ESPN2 - Sunshine Millions, horse racing.

6 p.m. - ESPN2 - Utah State at New Mexico State, college basketball.

6:30 p.m. - Golf Channel - Turtle Bay Championship, golf.

7 p.m. - ESPN - Georgetown at West Virginia, college basketball.

7 p.m. - Fox Sports - Washington at Arizona, college basketball.

7 p.m. - Versus - Young Stars Game & Super Skills Competition, hockey.

8 p.m. - Channel 11 - U.S. Championships, figure skating.

9 p.m. - ESPN2 - Creighton at Southern Illinois, college basketball.

9 p.m. - Fox Sports - USC at Oregon, college basketball.

10 p.m. - HBO - Eddie Chambers vs Alexander Povetkin, boxing.

Radio

1 p.m. - WCAL (91.9 FM) - California at Lock Haven, women's college basketball.

3 p.m. - WCAL (91.9 FM) - California at Lock Haven, college basketball.

Sunday

Television

3:30 a.m. - ESPN2 - Australian Open, tennis.

12:30 p.m. - ESPN - H&R Block Tournament of Champions, bowling.

1 p.m. - Channel 2 - Michigan at Michigan State, college basketball.

1 p.m. - Channel 4 - Boston at Orlando, pro basketball.

2:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Kansas State at Oklahoma State, women's college basketball.

3 p.m. - Channel 2 - Buick Invitational, golf.

3:30 p.m. - Channel 4 - Cleveland at Los Angeles Lakers, pro basketball.

4:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Georgia Tech at Virginia, college basketball.

6 p.m. - Versus - NHL All-Star Game, hockey.

6:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Duke at Maryland, college basketball.

6:30 p.m. - ESPN - Denver at Dallas, pro basketball.

7 p.m. - ESPN2 - Connecticut at Notre Dame, women's college basketball.

7 p.m. - Channel 11 - U.S. Championships, figure skating.

7 p.m. - Golf Channel - Turtle Bay Championship, golf.

Sports moves

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms with RHP Matt Albers and RHP Chris Ray on one-year contracts. Named Ryan Minor coach for Delmarva (SAL).

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Kyle Snyder on a one-year contract.

TAMPA BAY RAYS—Agreed to terms with 1B Carlos Pena on a three-year contract.

TEXAS RANGERS—Added RHP Jason Jennings to the 40-man roster. Designated RHP Armando Galarraga for assignment.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Agreed to terms with RHP Chad Gaudin on a one-year contract. Claimed OF Jeff Fiorentino off waivers from Cincinnati. Designated RHP Ruddy Lugo for assignment.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Signed LHP Tom Martin and LHP Mike Myers to minor league contracts.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Named George Yarno assistant offensive line coach.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned F Brett Sterling, F Colin Stuart and D Joel Kwiatkowski to Chicago (AHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Assigned F Ted Purcell and F Matt Moulson to Manchester (AHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Assigned F Chris Minard, F Tim Brent and F Ryan Stone to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Assigned F Mike Glumac and F Yan Stastny to Peoria (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Assigned RW Devin Setoguchi, C Tomas Plihal, G Thomas Greiss and D Marc-Edouard Vlasic to Worcester (AHL).

COLLEGE

KANSAS—Named David Beaty wide receivers coach.

High school boys' basketball standings

Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	Sec. 4 L	Overall W	Overall L
Chartiers Valley	8	0	19	1
Keystone Oaks	7	1	12	9
Ringgold	4	4	7	15
South Park	3	5	8	12
Trinity	2	6	5	14
McGuffey	0	8	3	16

Friday

Ringgold 49, McGuffey 33
Chartiers Valley 68, Trinity 43
Keystone Oaks 78, South Park 56

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Belle Vernon Area	7	1	16	5
Steel Valley	5	3	13	5
West Mifflin	4	4	9	9
Thomas Jefferson	4	4	6	12
Yough	3	5	7	13
Elizabeth Forward	1	7	5	16

Friday

Belle Vernon Area 52, Thomas Jefferson 51
Steel Valley 68, Elizabeth Forward 58
Yough 70, West Mifflin 65

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Monessen	12	0	17	4
Washington	10	2	16	6
Burgettstown	8	4	14	5
Brownsville	6	6	10	12
Charleroi	6	6	11	10
C-Houston	5	7	11	10
Waynesburg	1	11	3	16
Beth-Center	0	12	3	18

Friday

Monessen 94, Waynesburg 41
Charleroi 49, Beth-Center 46
Burgettstown 49, Washington 45
C-Houston 41, Brownsville 33

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	Sec. 2 L	Overall W	Overall L
California	8	0	13	4
Carmichaels	6	2	14	4
Geibel	4	3	5	11
Mapletown	3	4	9	10
Jeff-Morgan	1	7	5	16
West Greene	1	7	2	14

Friday

California 54, Mapletown 51
Geibel 58, West Greene 37
Carmichaels 50, Jeff-Morgan 37

Today

Bentworth at California
Geibel at Mapletown

	Sec. 3 W	Sec. 3 L	Overall W	Overall L
Serra	10	0	19	1
Bentworth	7	3	13	5
Clairton	7	3	10	8
Cornell	5	5	11	8
Sacred Heart	5	6	6	15
Avella	2	9	7	13
Frazier	0	10	2	17

Friday

Cornell 87, Frazier 39
Serra 55, Sacred Heart 41
Clairton 72, Avella 36

High school girls' standings

Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	Sec. 4 L	Overall W	Overall L
Ringgold	7	1	15	5
Chartiers Valley	7	1	14	6
West Allegheny	5	3	10	10
Keystone Oaks	3	5	6	13
McGuffey	2	6	7	13
Waynesburg	0	8	4	15

Today

Ringgold at West Mifflin (2:30 p.m.)

Monday

Ringgold at Keystone Oaks
Chartiers Valley at McGuffey
Waynesburg at West Allegheny

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
West Mifflin	8	0	17	3
Elizabeth Forward	6	2	17	4
Thomas Jefferson	6	2	10	10
Steel Valley	2	6	9	11
Belle Vernon Area	2	6	5	15
Yough	0	8	7	14

Friday

Elizabeth Forward 52, Uniontown 48

Today

Belle Vernon Area at Laurel Highlands (2 p.m.)

Monday

Belle Vernon Area at Elizabeth Forward
Steel Valley at Yough
Thomas Jefferson at West Mifflin

Class AA

	Sec.5 W	Sec.5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Washington	10	0	20	1
Beth-Center	7	4	14	6
Charleroi	6	4	11	10
Brownsville	6	5	14	8
Bentworth	5	5	11	9
C-Houston	1	9	5	17
Burgettstown	1	9	4	18

Monday

Charleroi at C-Houston
Burgettstown at Brownsville
Bentworth at Washington

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	Sec. 2 L	Overall W	Overall L
Geibel	8	0	14	5
Carmichaels	7	1	11	9
Mapletown	4	4	11	6
California	3	5	7	12
West Greene	1	7	1	19
Jeff-Morgan	1	7	2	18

Monday

Jeff-Morgan at California
Geiel at Carmichaels

	Sec. 3 W	Sec. 3 L	Overall W	Overall L
Monessen	9	0	20	0
Serra	6	2	11	5
Clairton	5	4	9	7
Avella	4	4	10	8
Trinity Christian	2	7	5	14
Frazier	0	9	0	21

Today

Trinity at Monessen (7:30 p.m.)
East Allegheny at Serra (2:30 p.m.)

Monday

Avella at Monessen
Serra at Trinity Christian

High school lineups

BOYS

Belle Vernon Area - 52

Dudzinski, 3-11-18; Naylor, 4-3-12; Pohlot, 3-4-10; Williams, 1-0-2; Lustig, 2 4-10; Pawlak, 0-0-0; Green, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 13, F- 22 (27), T- 52.

Thomas Jefferson - 51

Giansante, 1 0-2; Kaminski, 1-0-2; DiCicco, 9-1-19; Wildman, 1-0-2; Langholz, 5-3-14; Scott, 1-0-2; Licht, 4-1-10. Totals: FG - 19, F - 5 (14), T - 51.

Score by quarters:

BV Area	23	3	8	17	- 52
TJ	6	14	13	18	- 51

Three-pointers: BVA - Lustig 2, Dudzinski, Naylor. TJ - Licht.

Monessen - 94

Stepoli, 8-1-19; Pritchett, 5-1-15; Wall, 2-0-4; Brandemarte, 2-0-6; Tyree, 7-2-17; Parker, 3-0-6; Minnie, 3-0-6; Jeffries, 5-2-15; P. Kunsa, 0-0-0; Miller, 1-1-4; Sepesky, 0-2-2. Totals: FG - 36, F - 9 (14), T - 94.

Waynesburg - 41

Coldren, 2-0-4; Fancher, 2-1-5; Sinnott, 4-3-11; Phillips, 1-0-2; Nakumari, 1-0-2; Burris, 4-1-9; Pollock, 2-0-4; Hurd, 1-0-2; Moore, 1-0-2. Totals; FG - 17, F - 5 (12), T - 41.

Score by quarters:

Waynesbug	15	12	12	2	- 41
Monessen	25	26	22	21	- 94

Three-pointers: Monessen - Jeffries 3, Stepoli 2, Brandmarte 2, Pritchett 2, Tyree, Miller.

Ringgold - 49

Brownlee, 5-3-14; Bassi, 5-2-12; Mountain, 1-1-3; Bekavac, 2-0-4; Patch, 2-0-5; Smith, 2-0-4; Madar, 1-0-3; Resanovich, 0-0-0; Kosko, 0-0-0; Yost, 2-0-4; Felix, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 20, F - 6 (15), T - 49.

McGuffey - 33

Baker, 4-2-13; Geoff, 1-0-2; Czulewicz, 3-3-10; Wise, 2-2-6; McCollum, 0-0-0; McAnany, 0-0-0; Reihner, 0-0-0; Schilinski, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 11, F - 7 (9), T - 33.

Score by quarters:

McGuffey	8	7	5	13	- 33
Ringold	20	10	10	9	- 49

Three-pointers: Ringgold - Brownlee, Patch, Madar. McGuffey - Baker 3, Czulewicz.

Charleroi - 49

Hank, 5-0-11; DiPiazza, 0-1-1; Obade, 2-2-6; Pappasergi, 3-0-9; Andrisko, 9-0-22; Strelick, 0-0-0; Anderson, 0-0-0; Hooks, 0-0-0; Bell, 0-0-0. Totals; FG - 19, F - 3 (8), T - 49.

Beth-Center - 46

Niemec, 8-7-26; Samarin, 1-1-3; Whited, 3-2-8; Hayges, ,2-0-4; Podboy, 1-0-2; Labrasca, 1-1-3; Miller, 0-0-0; Jordan, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 16, F - 11 (15), T - 46.

Score by quarters:

Beth-CVenter	11	13	9	13	- 46
Charleroi	2	13	14	20	- 49

Three-pointers: Charleroi -Andrisko 4, Pappasergi 3, Hank. Beth-Center - Niemec 3,

Steel Valley - 68

Carr, 3-2-9; McNeil, 1-0-2; Sabo, 5-2-17; Thomas, 5-0-10; Zelena, 1-2-4; Siniawski, 7-0-14; M. Miller, 2-4-8; A. Miller, 2-0-4. Totals: FG - 26, F - 10 (12), T - 68.

Elizabeth Forward - 58

Cunning, 10-1-25; Guansante, 4-0-8; Gibbons, 4-1-10; Austin, 1-2-4; Styche, 1-0-3; Means, 3-0-6; LaVelle, 1-0-2. Totals; FG - 24, F - 4 (11), T - 58.

Score by quarters:

Elizabeth	15	9	14	20	- 58
Steel Valley	19	17	21	11	- 68

Three-pointers: Elizabeth - Cunning 4, Gibbons, Styche. Steel Valley - Sabo 5, Carr.

California - 54

Valentino, 10-5-26; VanOlst, 5-0-10; Carson, 1-0-2; Michaux, 4-0-10; Shen, 2-0-4; Tyler, 1-0-2; Wright, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 23, FT - 5(6), T - 54.

Mapletown - 51

Kovach, 6-0-14; Shifflett, 3-0-6; Dickerson, 3-0-6; Wilson, 6-3-15; Ja.Porterfield, 3-1-8; Jo.Porterfield, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 22, F - 4(8), T - 51.

Score by quarters:

Mapletown	8	10	13	20	- 51
California	11	16	15	12	- 54

Three pointers: Cal - Michaux 2, Valentino; Maple.- Kovach 2, Ja.Porterfield.

High school basketball scores

BOYS

Aliquippa 51, Peters Township 34
Allderdice 55, Westinghouse 51
Baldwin 41, Mt. Lebanon 40
Beaver Falls 69, Center 42
Belle Vernon Area 52, Thomas Jefferson 51
Blackhawk 48, West Allegheny 46
Brentwood 50, Avonworth 45
Burgettstown 49, Washington 45
Burrell 39, Apollo-Ridge 37
Butler 59, Pine-Richland 47
California 54, Mapletown 51
Canon-McMillan 59, Bethel Park 51
Carmichaels 50, Jefferson-Morgan 37
Carrick 69, Perry 48
Central Catholic 56, Oliver 47
Charleroi 49, Beth-Center 46
Chartiers Valley 68, Trinity 43
Chartiers-Houston 41, Brownsville 33
Clairton 72, Avella 36
Cornell 87, Frazier 39
Deer Lakes 37, Riverview 34
Fort Cherry 63, Carlynton 62
Fox Chapel 43, Plum 39
Franklin Regional 61, Hempfield 55
Gateway 62, Woodland Hills 43
Geibel 58, West Greene 37
Greensburg Central 65, East Allegheny 49
Greensburg Salem 67, Southmoreland 45
Hampton 81, Knoch 71
Hopewell 70, Ellwood City 30
Indiana 77, Valley 70
Keystone Oaks 78, South Park 56
Kiski Area 75, Albert Gallatin 66
Langley 63, Peabody 49
Latrobe 65, Penn-Trafford 51
Laurel Highlands 58, Mount Pleasant 46
Leechburg 66, Winchester Thurston 39
Mars 66, Kittanning 57
McKeesport 64, Penn Hills 41
Mohawk 78, Shenango 69
Monaca 66, Union 61
Monessen 94, Waynesburg 41
Moon 75, Upper St. Clair 48
Neshannock 76, Rochester 74
North Allegheny 61, New Castle 47
North Hills 41, Seneca Valley 35
Northgate 49, South Allegheny 30
Norwin 61, Connellsville 45
Quaker Valley 70, New Brighton 47
Ringgold 49, McGuffey 33
Riverside 71, Summit Academy 56
Schenley 87, Brashear 84
Serra Catholic 55, Sacred Heart 41
Seton-LaSalle 50, Canevin 46
Sewickley Academy 73, Quigley 32
Shaler 63, Ambridge 36
South Fayette 65, Sto-Rox 52
South Side Beaver 58, Freedom 51
Springdale 54, Laurel 49
St. Joseph 77, Elderton 25
Steel Valley 68, Elizabeth Forward 58
Uniontown 80, Derry Area 40
West Shamokin 38, Freeport 21
Western Beaver 67, Vincentian Academy 55
Wilkinsburg 83, Trinity Christian 36
Yough 70, West Mifflin 65

GIRLS

Elizabeth Forward 52, Uniontown 48
Jeannette 55, Valley 50
Langley 47, Peabody 36
Latrobe 64, Shaler 59
North Allegheny 54, New Castle 47
Norwin 65, Greensburg Salem 35
Perry 63, Carrick 10
Riverview 33, Ellis School 31
Schenley 71, Brashear 25
Westinghouse 85, Allderdice 46
Winchester Thurston 59, Sewickley Academy 57
Woodland Hills 63, Gateway 22

Latest Line

BEST BET: Philadelphia is a very solid 15-4 vs. the spread its last 19 games when playing the second of back to back games. Charlotte is just 6-7-1 vs. the spread its last 14 games as the betting favorite. The Sixers are a respectable 11-6 vs. the spread their last 17 road games and should be able to keep this one close. Take Philadelphia +5 for another Best Bet winner.

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Sunday, Feb 3		
Super Bowl XLII		
University of Phoenix Stadium-Glendale, AZ.		
New England	12 (54)	NY Giants

College Football

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Senior Bowl		
Ladd Peebles Stadium-Mobile, AL.		
South	3 (46)	North

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
MIAMI	3	Indiana
CHARLOTTE	5	Philadelphia
MEMPHIS	4	LA Clippers
SAN ANTONIO	5 1/2	New Orleans

College Basketball

Favorite	Points	Underdog
MEMPHIS	13	Gonzaga
VILLANOVA	2	Notre Dame
KENTUCKY	7 1/2	South Carolina
N'EASTERN	6	Hofstra
INDIANA	7	Connecticut
FLORIDA ST	8	N. Carolina St
KANSAS	24	Nebraska
BUTLER	15	Illinois Chicago
UTAH	10 1/2	Tcu
LA SALLE	3 1/2	St. Louis
OHIO	15	Ball State
Texas A&M	2	OKLAHOMA ST
WISC GR. BAY	11	Youngstown St
ALABAMA	7 1/2	Auburn
ARIZONA	9	Washington
BROWN	5 1/2	Yale
LOUISVILLE	16	St. John's
BOSTON COLL.	5 1/2	Virginia Tech
Missouri	7 1/2	COLORADO
DELAWARE	7 1/2	Georgia State
Wright State	3	DETROIT
MIAMI-OHIO	10	E. Michigan
Wisconsin	1	PURDUE
WYOMING	6 1/2	Colorado State
SAN DIEGO ST	3	Nev. Las Vegas
BAYLOR	5	Oklahoma
MISS. ST	6 1/2	Mississippi
SO. MISS	17	Rice
BYU	5	New Mexico
DRAKE	9	Northern Iowa
IOWA	6 1/2	Penn State
KANSAS ST	14	Iowa State
N. MEXICO ST	5 1/2	Utah State
PITTSBURGH	19	Rutgers
VA C'WEALTH	15	Drexel
Akron	6	C. MICHIGAN
Washington St	4	ARIZONA STATE
Stanford	2	CALIFORNIA
CS NORTH.	13	Long Beach St
COLUMBIA	1	Cornell
DUQUESNE	11	G. Washington
Tulane	2	EAST CAROLINA
Dayton	4 1/2	RICHMOND
NC CHAR.	9	Fordham
George Mason	7	NC WILM.
W. VIRGINIA	2 1/2	Georgetown
WILL. & MARY	2	Old Dominion
TEMPLE	1	St. Joseph's
TENNESSEE	14 1/2	Georgia
TOLEDO	6	Buffalo
TOWSON ST	3	James Madison
Rhode Island	12	ST. BONA
Missouri State	5 1/2	EVANSVILLE
HOUSTON	12	Marshall
Nevada	12	LA TECH
MARQUETTE	14 1/2	Depaul
OHIO STATE	8	Minnesota
WICHITA ST	3	Bradley
WISC MILW.	4	Cleveland State
VALPARAISO	13	Loyola Chicago
TEXAS	11 1/2	Texas Tech
Central Florida	8	SMU
TEX EL PASO	5 1/2	Tulsa
Arkansas	6	LSU
OREGON	4	Southern Cal
SAN DIEGO	5	Santa Clara
SO. ILLINOIS	3 1/2	Creighton
CAL IRVINE	14	Cal Riverside
CAL SB	19	UC Davis
FRESNO ST	11	San Jose State
Hawaii	1 1/2	IDAHO
PEPPERDINE	12	Loy. Marymount
St. Mary's, CA	9 1/2	SAN FRAN
Ucla	17	OREGON STATE
MURRAY ST	12	SE Missouri St
NC Greens.	14	THE CITADEL
TENN. TECH	5 1/2	Tenn. State
TENN CHATT.	2 1/2	Appalachian St
Davidson	8	CHARLESTON
Tenn. Martin	4	JACKS. ST
WOFFORD	6 1/2	W. Carolina
Loyola Md	2 1/2	MANHATTAN
GA SOUTHERN	16	Furman
Austin Peay	5	SAMFORD
Morehead St	2	E. ILLINOIS
MONTANA ST	12	E. Washington

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	34	7	.829	—
Toronto	24	19	.558	11
New Jersey	18	25	.419	17
Philadelphia	16	28	.364	19 1/2
New York	14	28	.333	20 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	27	18	.600	—
Washington	23	18	.561	2
Atlanta	17	21	.447	6 1/2
Charlotte	17	26	.395	9
Miami	8	33	.195	17

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	31	13	.705	—
Cleveland	23	19	.548	7
Indiana	19	25	.432	12
Chicago	17	25	.405	13
Milwaukee	17	27	.386	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	30	12	.714	—
Dallas	29	13	.690	1
San Antonio	28	13	.683	1 1/2
Houston	23	19	.548	7
Memphis	12	31	.279	18 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	26	16	.619	—
Portland	25	17	.595	1
Utah	24	18	.571	2
Seattle	9	33	.214	17
Minnesota	7	35	.167	19

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	31	13	.705	—
L.A. Lakers	27	14	.659	2 1/2
Golden State	26	18	.591	5
Sacramento	18	23	.439	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	13	26	.333	15 1/2

Friday's Games

Toronto 106, Milwaukee 75
Phoenix 110, Cleveland 108
Washington 104, Memphis 93
Detroit 101, Orlando 93
Boston 87, Minnesota 86
New York 89, Philadelphia 81
New Orleans 111, L.A. Clippers 92
Charlotte 90, Chicago 77
Dallas 112, L.A. Lakers 105
Denver 100, New Jersey 85
Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10 p.m.
Atlanta at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

Today's Games

Indiana at Miami, 3:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Phoenix at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Boston at Orlando, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 3:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 6 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 6 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Minnesota, 6:30 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Seattle, 9 p.m.
New York at Golden State, 9 p.m.

Morneau to get $80M

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Former AL MVP Justin Morneau received the most lucrative contract in Minnesota Twins history, an $80 million, six-year deal announced Friday along with a $24 million, three-year agreement for right fielder Michael Cuddyer.

The Twins, who have explored trading two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana, announced the agreements at the start of their TwinsFest.

General manager Bill Smith, at a news conference to discuss the Morneau and Cuddyer contracts, said the two deals do not affect any other players.

"I don't think it's any great change in philosophy," Smith said.

Assistant general manager Rob Antony handled the negotiation and praised owner Carl Pohlad and his sons for approving the deals during an offseason in which center fielder Torii Hunter and pitcher Carlos Silva left as free agents to sign with other teams.

The Pohlads didn't "want this to continue to happen," Antony said.

Morneau and Cuddyer, beaming and dressed in dark suits, joined Smith and Antony at a podium near third base on the Metrodome field.

The Twins, with a core of Morneau, Cuddyer and catcher Joe Mauer to carry them into their new ballpark in 2010, have reached agreement with all of their arbitration-eligible players. Morneau agreed to a $7.4 million, one-year contract last week, but both sides wanted to go longer.

BVA YOUTH SOCCER CLUB'S
ANNUAL
"SUPER BOWL EVE" DANCE
Saturday, February 2, 2008 - 8:00 pm
ROSTRAVER CENTRAL VFD SOCIAL HALL
NEW THI

SPORTS

Malkin Penguins' new leader

Russian star expands his role after Sidney Crosby's injury.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Only a few hours after Sidney Crosby was lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins for up to two months with an ankle injury, coach Michel Therrien delivered a message to Evgeni Malkin.

Despite the language barrier — Therrien's native language is French, Malkin's is Russian — the intent of the coach's instructions to his other young scoring star was clear.

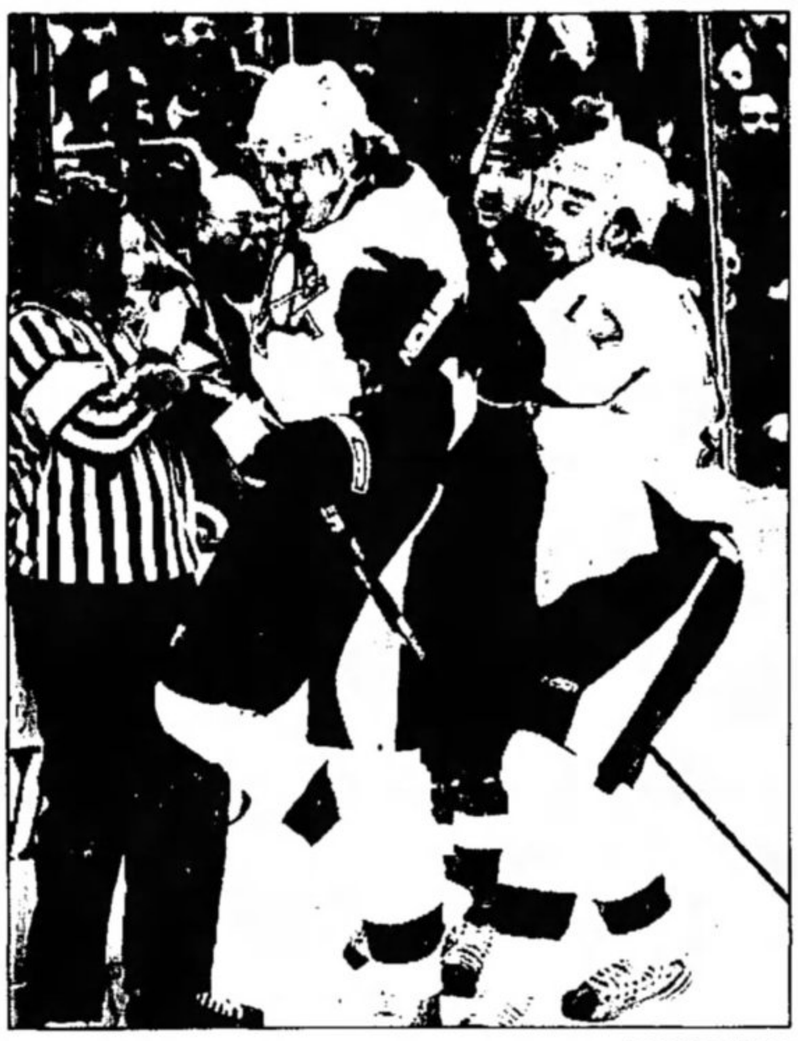
Malkin, for all his speed, puckhandling skills and shooting ability, should not take on the added burden of attempting to make up for Crosby's missing production by trying to do too much by himself.

Malkin listened intently and understood what his coach was saying. Then he went out and effectively disregarded everything he said.

"We've lost our best player," Malkin said. "It's not just me, everybody has to keep up (with him) with every game."

So far, only Malkin has done that. Since Crosby sustained a high ankle sprain Jan. 18 against Tampa Bay, Malkin — last season's NHL rookie of the year — has responded with several of the best games of his career.

Statistics alone don't reflect his impact, but Malkin had four goals and one assist in a victory against Montreal, a shootout loss to Washington and a loss at Philadelphia. He was easily the Penguins' best player on the ice in all three games, not only creating offense but playing with more commitment and concentration on defense.



Associated Press

Evgeni Malkin, left, celebrates a goal Thursday along with teammate Petr Sykora.

"When things are more desperate, when he knows he's being depended on a little more, he's got that extra jump," Crosby said. "He just has to play the same way."

Crosby will miss Sunday's NHL All-Star game in Atlanta due to the first major injury of his career, but his absence means Malkin gets to play. Several of their teammates say it a deserved honor, one Malkin should have received even if Crosby was healthy.

> "We've lost our best player. It's not just me, everybody has to keep up (with him) with every game."
>
> Evgeni Malkin

While Crosby is the youthful face of the NHL, and the Penguins, the 21-year-old Malkin has played equally well for lengthy stretches this season. Malkin has 27 goals, seven more than Crosby, and 57 points, or six fewer than Crosby's 63.

On Monday, Malkin played one of the best games by any Penguins player since Mario Lemieux's retirement in 2006 — Crosby included — when he had two goals and an assist against Washington.

During a frantic 12-minute stretch during the end of the first period and the start of the second, Malkin and Capitals star Alexander Ovechkin made a series of can-you-top-this plays while setting up or scoring a combined five goals.

"I thought it was a great show by two young superstars trying to be the king of the hill," Capitals coach Bruce Boudreau said.

Even if no one with the Penguins will say it, that is exactly what they need Malkin to be until Crosby returns, which might not be until fairly late in the season. Pittsburgh heads into the All-Star break with a 27-18-4 record and 58 points, one fewer than Atlantic Division co-leaders New Jersey and Philadelphia but only four points out of last place.

Obviously, what the Penguins do without Crosby may very well determine whether they make the playoffs for the second successive season. The Penguins are 1-3-3 in seven games with Crosby out of the lineup the last three seasons.

However, few teams have a Malkin-like player to plug into its top line at center when a player is injured. Malkin has been surging for about a month, with 16 goals in 16 games and seven goals in his last five games.

Malkin, then a teenager, was the top player on his team in Russia's top pro league before joining the Penguins in 2006. He understands what he needs to do as his team's most counted-upon player.

"A lot of times when he played in Russia, he was the go-to guy, and I think he's used to the pressure that comes with that," Crosby said. "Hopefully, it's not something where he has to put it all on his shoulders. I don't think he can do that — nobody can do that."

Malkin agrees.

"We have to play as a team at our best every night," he said.

Patriots' Brady nowhere to be found

Patriots quarterback being kept off limits to media,

By HOWARD ULMAN
AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — For the second consecutive day, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady wasn't in the locker room or at practice when reporters and cameramen were allowed inside Friday.

During the 45-minute period in the locker room, several cameramen lingered near his locker, but he didn't show up. Nor was he there for the first 12 minutes of practice that the media were allowed to watch.

New England coach Bill Belichick said reporters would be informed after practice if Brady participated. There was no word after it ended, and calls to the Patriots were not immediately returned.

Brady was photographed in New York on Monday wearing a protective boot on his right foot. He took it off later in the day and hasn't been photographed wearing it since. He reportedly has a minor high ankle sprain that isn't expected to keep him out of the Super Bowl against the New York Giants on Feb. 3.

Brady wasn't seen during the first 15 minutes of Thursday's workout to which media were admitted, nor in the locker room.

As Belichick was asked Friday to compare the current trip to the Super Bowl to the other three the team has played in, vice president of media relations Stacey James said, "Final question."

One reporter tried to squeeze in another, asking if Belichick could say what Brady did or didn't do on Thursday, the Patriots' first day of practice after a three-day break.

"Was that the last question?" Belichick said, smiling as he turned toward James.

"That was the last question," James replied.

With that, Belichick walked from the podium and out of the room.

About 90 minutes later, Belichick started practice in the team's indoor facility, watching the players stretch and stopping to talk to linebacker Junior Seau for several minutes. Safety Rodney Harrison, who was not seen at the beginning of practice on Thursday, was there Friday while reporters were allowed to observe.

Tom Brady

But Brady was missing.

When drills began and receivers ran pass routes, it was backup Matt Cassel throwing to Randy Moss and No. 3 quarterback Matt Gutierrez passing the ball to Wes Welker.

Penn State players kicked off the team

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Three Penn State football players charged in connection with a campus fight last fall have been kicked off the team, at least temporarily, a person familiar with the players' status said Friday.

Defensive tackle Chris Baker and linebacker Navorro Bowman are awaiting trial on felony assault and other charges related to a fight in October at the campus student union.

Cornerback Knowledge Timmons was charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct and defiant trespass stemming from an incident after the fight.

The three players are no longer with the team, though it's possible they could return to the squad, said the person familiar with the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the subject.

Baker, Bowman and Timmons face pending disciplinary action from the university, with hearings likely within the next few weeks, the school administration said.

Troy Polamalu

Steelers' Polamalu to skip Pro Bowl

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers safety Troy Polamalu will not play in the Pro Bowl, joining running back Willie Parker as the team's second player to miss the NFL's all-star game.

Polamalu was suffering from a knee sprain when the season ended. A team spokeswoman said Polamalu will not play in the Feb. 10 game in Honolulu.

Parker, the NFL's leading rusher for much of the season, will not play because he broke his leg in the next-to-last game of the regular season.

Antoine Bethea of Indianapolis will replace Polamalu at strong safety.

The Steelers still have three players on the AFC's roster: linebacker James Harrison, guard Alan Faneca and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Harrison and Faneca are starters.

Raiders denying Kiffin rumors

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) -- The Oakland Raiders denied a report Friday that owner Al Davis asked coach Lane Kiffin to resign.

ESPN, citing unidentified sources, reported that Davis drew up a resignation letter for Kiffin two weeks ago, but the coach refused to sign it. Kiffin has two years left on the contract he signed last January.

"There is no issue here," Raiders senior executive John Herrera said.

"There was never an issue here. There's nothing to it."

Kiffin declined to address the report when asked about it by ESPN at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

"I'm not going to comment on anything that has transpired in the past three weeks," said Kiffin, who is coaching the North team in the college all-star game.

Speculation about Kiffin's status began three weeks ago after reports surfaced following the season that he wanted to fire defensive coordinator Rob Ryan. The Raiders dismissed those reports and announced that Ryan was staying on as coordinator.

Kiffin told reporters at the Senior Bowl earlier in the week that his relationship with Ryan "is not an issue."

Kiffin is scheduled to interview former San Diego Chargers receivers coach James Lofton on Monday for a potential job on the Raiders' staff, Herrera said.

Lofton, who was fired earlier this week by San Diego, interviewed for the head coaching job in Oakland the previous two years. Lofton lost out to Art Shell in 2006 and to Kiffin last year.

Kiffin, 32, was the youngest man to coach a game in the NFL since Harland Svare took over the Los Angeles Rams as a 31-year old in 1962. He overhauled almost the entire coaching staff after he arrived, hiring 14 new assistants.

The team went 4-12 in his first season in Oakland, doubling the team's win total from the previous year and showing signs of improvement in many areas.

But the defense under Ryan struggled despite returning all 11 starters as well as some key reserves from a unit that allowed the fewest yards passing and third fewest total yards in the league in 2006.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Joe Namath announced his retirement from pro football after spending a season sitting on the bench for the New York Jets.

Tom Parks' 16 points were high in Belle Vernon Area's 50-39 win over Connellsville. It was the Leps' 15th straight victory.

Mike Sims scored 22 points in California's 50-39 triumph over Avella.

California State College dropped Slippery Rock, 88-82, behind Dick Hartung's 18 points.

Jim Chacko, the former Charleroi High all-around star athlete, accepted a job in Tempe, Ariz., as a leather goods sales representative.

20 Years Ago

Dana Zajicek poured in 27 points in California University's 90-84 win at Clarion.

Dawn Ghilani scored 18 points in Mon Valley Catholic's 52-45 win over Mapletown.

Frazier downed Monessen, 52-47, behind Kim Zubovich's 20 points.

10 Years Ago

Belle Vernon Area rolled over Southmoreland, 92-46, behind Matt Eisley's 17 points for a school record 19th straight win.

Monessen snapped a three-game losing skid with a 48-43 win over California.The Greyhounds' Ed Francia took scoring honors with 13 points.

Bill HUGHES

Ross signs extension with WWE

Jim Ross, the best play-by-play man of this era and quite possibly of all-time, has signed a two-year extension with the WWE.

Ross became nationally known in 1986 when he went to work for the NWA on TBS. The NWA eventually became WCW and when Eric Bischoff was named executive producer in early 1993, he got rid of Ross.

Shortly after, Ross made his then-WWF debut at WrestleMania IX.

He was fired in February 1994, but he was brought back when Vince McMahon was on trial to do play-by-play on Raw.

In 1996, Ross was made a primary announcer and has been ever since with the exception of two cases.

In late 1998, Ross was stricken with Bells Palsy and missed several months.

Then on the Oct. 10, 2005, edition of Raw, Ross was "fired" so that Joey Styles could handle the announcing duties.

Ross was brought back a few months later and was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame last year.

Unquestionably the best announcer of this generation, Ross is frequently put in the same category as Gordon Solie. I am too young to remember Solie in his prime, but I would take Ross without question.

Here s hoping Ross calls the Royal Rumble Sunday, because no one has ever done it better, and chances are no one ever will.

Royal Rumble Sunday

The 21st annual Royal Rumble takes place Sunday on PPV, and the card looks to be very strong.

Randy Orton will defend the WWE championship against Jeff Hardy, while Edge will defend the World title against Rey Mysterio.

Chris Jericho will face a returning JBL, and MVP will attempt to force Ric Flair into retirement.

The main event will be the Rumble match. While only 24 of the 30 names have been announced, I look for Triple H, Batista, the Undertaker, Shawn Michaels, and Mr. Kennedy to be in there at the end.

Look for Michaels and Kennedy to eliminate each other, regardless of when it will happen in the match.

I look for the Undertaker to win the Rumble by last eliminating Batista.

If 'Taker does win, he will join Hulk Hogan (1990 and 1991) and Michaels (1995 and 1996) as the only repeat winners.

Lashley gone?

Former ECW and US champion Bobby Lashley has reported on his Web site that he has asked for a release from the WWE.

Apparently all that remains is the paperwork to be filed to allow him to move on.

Look for there to be a no-compete clause to where Lashley won't be allowed to wrestle for anyone else until his current WWE deal would have expired. Word going around is Lashley would like to try some form of Mixed Martial Arts.

TNA special decent

Last week, TNA presented a one-hour show of its trip to Japan for a show at the Tokyo Dome. It was very well done and gave the company some much-needed positive attention.

This week's question

When will TNA be as big as the WWE? — *Steve, Elizabeth.*

I am not sure if it can happen. When you consider that TNA's highest grossing PPV of all-time garnered less buys than the WWE's lowest buy rate in the last five years, one would have to think that there is room for improvement.

Until TNA establishes more stars on its own and quits using WWE retreads, I don't see it happening.

Woman's stepchildren use old house as party central

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: I married a man with two adult children. When I met him, "Jerry" was a single father whose ex-wife had died soon after their divorce.

I have two small children who live with us. Jerry has been a wonderful husband and stepfather. When we married years ago, we both owned our own homes. We jointly decided to rent mine and live in his.

Whenever we go away on a vacation, his children use our home without asking. There have been parties, complaints from neighbors, our house left in disarray, and "friends" I don't know sleeping in my children's beds. In the past, Jerry tolerated this behavior.

Now that my children and I live here, I asked my husband to talk to his children about this. He did, and things have toned down, but they haven't stopped.

It bothers me that they use our home when we're not here. I feel it's an invasion of privacy, lack of respect and a risk. Jerry feels it's their home, too, and he's reluctant to be firm with them. I don't think they or their friends should be here when we're gone. Am I out of line? — **HOME INVASION IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR HOME INVASION: No, I agree with you. Circumstances have changed since your husband's children lived there, and your feelings need to be considered.

It is no longer "their" house. Throwing wild parties, inviting strangers to use the beds and leaving the place in disarray is disrespectful to both you and their father, and should not be tolerated. Your husband's reluctance to make this clear may have to do with lingering guilt over his divorce from their mother, but it's time for him to step up, do what's right and draw the line.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in the eighth grade, and I have crushes on two boys. One is in 11th grade and the other is a senior.

The boy in 11th grade treats me like a queen, and I don't exactly like that. On the other hand, the senior treats me like I'm nothing, and I really like him.

My friends think I should be with the one who's in 11th grade. What do you think? — **HARRISBURG, PA., TEEN**

DEAR TEEN: I think you have confused the excitement of a "challenge" with a real relationship. Before you begin dating anyone, it's important that you figure out exactly what it is about being treated well that turns you off, and why you're attracted to someone who is even mildly abusive.

The sooner you do that the better, because you'll save yourself a world of disappointment and pain.

PS: Right now, I think both of those boys are too old for you.

DEAR ABBY: What should a person do when he or she works with a pathological liar? This woman brags about extravagant trips to New York, Europe, etc., from which she never brings any pictures to show. She brags about what she has or what she buys. She even tells people that she's a lawyer when she's really a secretary, and tells everyone that she's going to school, but she has never enrolled at any colleges.

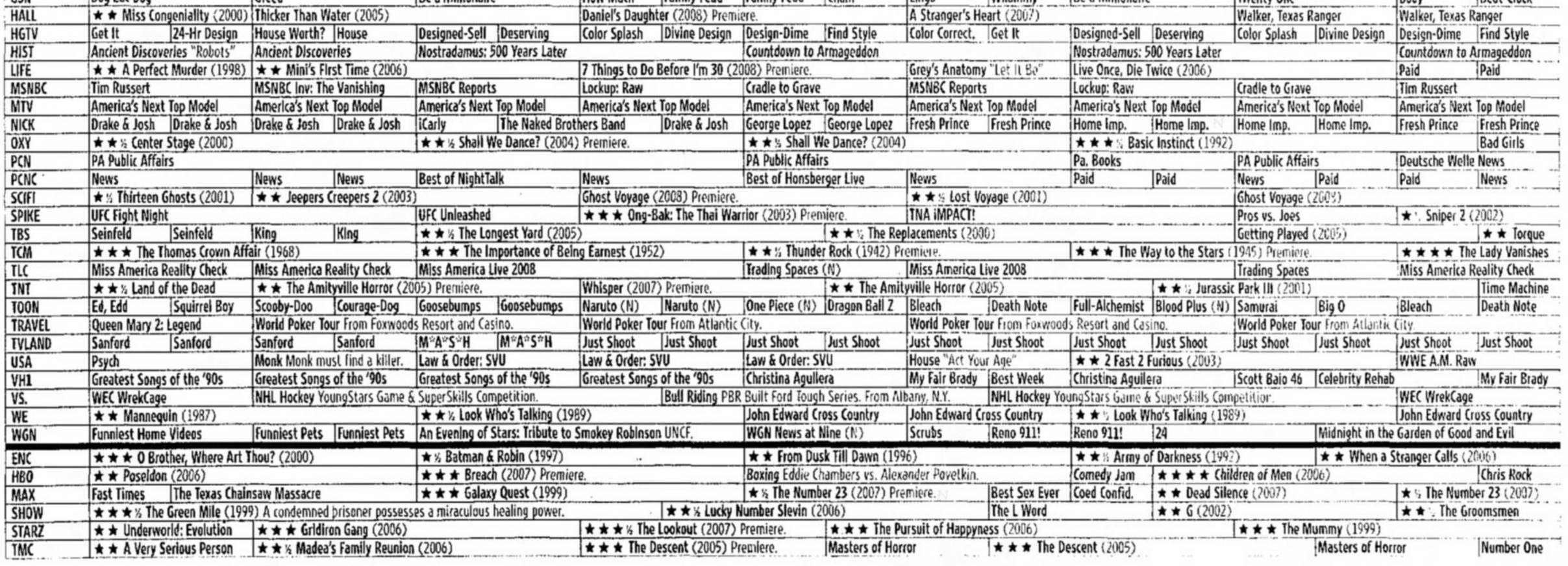
This woman and I have friends in common, and I know that none of what she brags about is true. Because she works with a lot of professional people, I guess she feels she has to make up lies to fit in. I wish everyone knew what she's doing so they wouldn't fall for her lies. What do you recommend? — **FED UP IN PASCO, WASH.**

DEAR FED UP: The person you have described has enough problems without you creating more for her. I recommend you bide your time and keep your distance. People who lie usually trip themselves up and give themselves away eventually.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SATURDAY EVENING — JAN. 26, 2008

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	News (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	(2) News/ (7) Entertainment Tonight/ (10) Inside Edition Weekend	(2) The Insider/ (10) Two and a Half Men "The Salmon Under My Sweater"	Super Bowl's Greatest Commercials 2008 Ten Super Bowl commercials. (N)		48 Hours Mystery (N)		48 Hours Mystery "Fight for the Truth" A child spends 17 years in prison for killing his parents. (N)		News (N)	CSI: Miami "Big Brother" Horatio becomes driven like never before to find his brother's killer.		(2) CSI: Miami "Bait"/ (7) Without a Trace "Doppelganger Part 2"/ (10) Cold Case "Revolution"		(2) Lyons & Bailes Reel Talk/ (7) Cold Case/ (10) Without a Trace	(2) Made in Hollywood: Teen Edition (N)	(2) Paid Prog./ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) At the Movies-Ebert & Roeper
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) News (N)/ (23) Paid	ABC's World News Saturday (N)	(4) Entertainment Tonight/ (23) Jeopardy!	(23) Wheel of Fortune "TGIF"	★★★ Pretty Woman (1990) A corporate raider pays a gorgeous hooker to be his escort for a business week in Beverly Hills.						(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	(4) Ebert & Roeper/ (23) Law/Ord SVU	(4) Access Hollywood (N)	(23) Lyons & Bailes Reel Talk (N)	(4) Paid/ (23) Girls Behaving Badly	Paid	Paid	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11/ (23) Paid
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight/ (9) Wheel of Fortune/ (11) Jeopardy!	(9) Cash Explosion/ (11) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	(6) (11) Figure Skating U.S. Championships — Ladies Free Program. From St. Paul, Minn./ (9) ECHL Hockey Cincinnati Cyclones at Wheeling Nailers.				(9) Figure Skating U.S. Championships — Ladies Free Program. From St. Paul, Minn. (Joined in Progress)		News (N)	Saturday Night Live			(6) (9) Star Trek/ (11) Cops	(11) NASCAR Angels	(6) Masterminds/ (9) Entertainers/ (11) Da Vinci's Inquest	(6) Masterminds "Dinner Set Gang" Cat burglar steals $1 million.
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) College Basketball/ (53) Two Men	(8) The King of Queens/ (53) Friends	(8) American Idol Rewind/ (53) Friends	(53) Seinfeld Jerry decides to change barbers.	Cops "Coast to Coast" DUI suspect; drug bust; fistfight.	Cops Narcotics felon; drunken driver.	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back (N)		(8) News (N)/ (53) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10	(8) Seinfeld/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Mad TV Kathy Griffin.		Talkshow With Spike Feresten (N)	Paid	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) 70's Music Explosion/ (53) Engaged to Kill (2006)	(8) Real Estate Millionaire Show
(13) WQED	Antiques Roadshow "Baltimore, Maryland"		The Lawrence Welk Show "Musical Tour of Europe"		Keeping Up Appearances	Are You Being Served?	As Time Goes By	Waiting for God	The New Red Green Show	Excellent Adventures	Roadtrip Nation	Rare Visions-Revelations	John Denver: A Song's Best Friend Commentary from friends and family.			Bob Dylan: Live in Newport 1963-1965		
(19) WPCW	Cold Case "Revolution"		Without a Trace "Doppelganger Part 2"		Everybody-Raymond	According to Jim	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Steelers TV	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Girls Behaving Badly	Showtime at the Apollo Best of show.		Girls Behaving Badly	Paid
(22) WPMY	Paid	Home Videos	Family Guy	Family Guy	NFL Total Access		Control Room Presents		UFC Wired		Paid	Paid	One on One	One on One	My Wife-Kids	Paid	Soul Train Chic; High Energy.	
(40) WPCB	The Time Is Now!		The Time Is Now! Annual fundraiser.								The Time Is Now! Annual fundraiser.							
(59) WBGN	TBA	Paid	TBA	Paid	The Collector		Stargate SG-1 (N)		It's Alive!				Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	★★★★ The Godfather (1972)				★★★★ The Godfather, Part II (1974) Michael Corleone moves his father's crime family to Las Vegas.								★★★★ The Godfather, Part II (1974)				Paid	Paid
ABCFAM	★★ Never Been Kissed (1999)				Bring It On: In It to Win It (2007)				Bring It On: In It to Win It (2007)				★★ Can't Hardly Wait (1998)					
AMC	★★★ Top Gun (1986)				★★★ Open Range (2003) Cattle herdsmen battle a ruthless rancher in 1882.						★★ Sniper (1993)				★★½ The Jewel of the Nile (1985)			
ANPL	Animal Cops Detroit		Animal Cops Detroit		Avalanche Dogs (N)		Cell Dogs		Polar Bears Uncovered		Avalanche Dogs		Cell Dogs		Polar Bears Uncovered		Animal Cops Detroit	
BBC	Doctor Who "Doomsday"		Doctor Who		Doctor Who		Torchwood (N)		The Graham Norton Show (N)		Doctor Who		Torchwood		The Graham Norton Show		Doctor Who	
BET	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	★★½ Strictly Business (1991)				Comicview		American Gangster	
BRAVO	Make Me a Supermodel		Project Runway "On Garde!"		Project Runway		★★★ Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)				★★★ Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)				★★★ Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)			
CMT	The 2007 Miss America Pageant From Las Vegas.				Gone Country		Redneck Wed	Home Videos	Gone Country		Redneck Wed	★ Stroker Ace (1983)				CMT Insider	CMT Music	
CNBC	Paid	Paid	Deal or No Deal		The Celebrity Apprentice		The Suze Orman Show (N)		Deal or No Deal		The Celebrity Apprentice		The Suze Orman Show		Deal or No Deal		Paid	CorEvolution
CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week		South Carolina Democratic Primary Coverage Democratic Primary.						Newsroom		Broken Government		Larry King Live		CNN Saturday Night		Broken Government	
COM	Brian Regan: Standing Up		Jim Gaffigan: Beyond Pale		Jeff Dunham: Arguing		Daniel Tosh: Serious		Katt Williams American Hustle: The Movie				Chappelle's	Chappelle's	Carlos Mencia: Strings		Carlos Mencia: Strings	
COURT	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Evidence	Evidence	Arrest & Trial	Arrest & Trial	Hwood Heat	Hwood Heat	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Evidence	Evidence	Arrest & Trial	Arrest & Trial
CSPAN	Pres. Address	Commun.	America & the Courts		American Perspectives						American Perspectives						C-SPAN Weekend	
DISC	Fearless Planet		MythBusters "James Bond"		Some Assembly Required		MythBusters "Lead Balloon"		Smash Lab		Bone Detectives		Some Assembly Required		MythBusters "Lead Balloon"		Smash Lab	
DISNEY	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Minutemen (2008)			Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor New	Dragon	Buzz Light	Timon
E!	Hollywood Meltdowns		E! News Weekend		Donald Trump: THS		Saturday Night Live		Saturday Night Live		The Soup	Chelsea	Snoop Father	Snoop Father	Saturday Night Live		The Soup	Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter		College Basketball Georgetown at West Virginia.				Winter X-Games From Aspen, Colo.				SportsCenter		Midnight	Fastbreak	SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPNC	College Basketball Rutgers at Pittsburgh.				Mike Tyson's Greatest Hits		College Basketball Arkansas at LSU.				2006 World Series of Poker		2006 World Series of Poker		2006 World Series of Poker		2006 World Series of Poker	
ESPN2	College Basketball Utah State at New Mexico State.				College GameDay		College Basketball Creighton at Southern Illinois.				Super Bowl	Super Bowl	X Center		Winter X-Games		X Center	
EWTN	Mother Angelica-Classic		Daily Mass: Our Lady		Witness to Hope				Fr. John Corapi		The Journey Home		Daily Mass: Our Lady		Fr. Corapi		Witness to Hope	
FNC	Fox News Live		Fox Report		Geraldo at Large		Special Programming		Red Eye		Jrnl Edit. Rpt	Beltway Boys	Geraldo at Large		The Line-Up		Red Eye	
FOOD	Barefoot In Paris		Rachael Vaca.	Rachael Vaca.	Paula's European Vacation		Rachael Vaca.	Rachael Vaca.	Planet Food "Mexico"		Iron Chef America		Rachael Vaca.	Rachael Vaca.	Planet Food "Mexico"		Iron Chef America	
FSN	In My Words	Penguins	College Basketball Washington at Arizona.				College Basketball USC at Oregon.				FSN Pro Football Preview		Toughest Cowboy (N)		Final Score	Final Score	Women's College Basketball	
FX	★★★ Spider-Man 2 (2004)				★★★ Batman Begins (2005) Bruce Wayne becomes Gotham City's Dark Knight.						★★ Daredevil (2003) A blind attorney fights crime at night.						Build Wealth	Paid
GOLF	Post Game	PGA Tour Golf Champions — Turtle Bay Championship — Second Round.					Golf Central		PGA Championship Highlights		U.S. Open Golf Highlights		Golf Central		PGA Tour Golf: Champions — Turtle Bay Championship			
GSN	Dog Eat Dog		Greed		Be a Millionaire		How Much	Family Feud	Family Feud	Chain	Lingo	Whammy	Be a Millionaire		Twenty One		Body	Beat-Clock
HALL	★★ Miss Congeniality (2000)		Thicker Than Water (2005)				Daniel's Daughter (2008) Premiere.				A Stranger's Heart (2007)				Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
HGTV	Get It	24-Hr Design	House Worth?	House	Designed-Sell	Deserving	Color Splash	Divine Design	Design-Dime	Find Style	Color Correct.	Get It	Designed-Sell	Deserving	Color Splash	Divine Design	Design-Dime	Find Style
HIST	Ancient Discoveries "Robots"		Ancient Discoveries		Nostradamus: 500 Years Later				Countdown to Armageddon				Nostradamus: 500 Years Later				Countdown to Armageddon	
LIFE	★★ A Perfect Murder (1998)		★★ Mini's First Time (2006)				7 Things to Do Before I'm 30 (2008) Premiere.				Grey's Anatomy "Let It Be"		Live Once, Die Twice (2006)				Paid	Paid
MSNBC	Tim Russert		MSNBC Inv: The Vanishing		MSNBC Reports		Lockup: Raw		Cradle to Grave		MSNBC Reports		Lockup: Raw		Cradle to Grave		Tim Russert	
MTV	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model	
NICK	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	iCarly	The Naked Brothers Band		Drake & Josh	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
OXY	★★½ Center Stage (2000)				★★½ Shall We Dance? (2004) Premiere.				★★½ Shall We Dance? (2004)				★★★½ Basic Instinct (1992)					Bad Girls
PCN	PA Public Affairs								PA Public Affairs				Pa. Books		PA Public Affairs		Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	News		News	News	Best of NightTalk		News		Best of Honsberger Live		News		Paid	Paid	News	Paid	Paid	News
SCIFI	★½ Thirteen Ghosts (2001)		★★ Jeepers Creepers 2 (2003)				Ghost Voyage (2008) Premiere.				★★½ Lost Voyage (2001)				Ghost Voyage (2008)			
SPIKE	UFC Fight Night				UFC Unleashed		★★★ Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior (2003) Premiere.				TNA iMPACT!				Pros vs. Joes		★½ Sniper 2 (2002)	
TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	King	★★½ The Longest Yard (2005)					★★½ The Replacements (2000)					Getting Played (2005)			★★ Torque
TCM	★★★ The Thomas Crown Affair (1968)				★★★ The Importance of Being Earnest (1952)				★★½ Thunder Rock (1942) Premiere.				★★★ The Way to the Stars (1945) Premiere.				★★★★ The Lady Vanishes	
TLC	Miss America Reality Check		Miss America Reality Check		Miss America Live 2008				Trading Spaces (N)		Miss America Live 2008				Trading Spaces		Miss America Reality Check	
TNT	★★½ Land of the Dead		★★ The Amityville Horror (2005) Premiere.				Whisper (2007) Premiere.			★★ The Amityville Horror (2005)				★★½ Jurassic Park III (2001)				Time Machine
TOON	Ed, Edd	Squirrel Boy	Scooby-Doo	Courage-Dog	Goosebumps	Goosebumps	Naruto (N)	Naruto (N)	One Piece (N)	Dragon Ball Z	Bleach	Death Note	Full-Alchemist	Blood Plus (N)	Samurai	Big O	Bleach	Death Note
TRAVEL	Queen Mary 2: Legend		World Poker Tour From Foxwoods Resort and Casino.				World Poker Tour From Atlantic City.				World Poker Tour From Foxwoods Resort and Casino.				World Poker Tour From Atlantic City.			
TVLAND	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot	Just Shoot
USA	Psych		Monk Monk must find a killer.		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		House "Act Your Age"		★★ 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003)				WWE A.M. Raw	
VH1	Greatest Songs of the '90s		Greatest Songs of the '90s		Greatest Songs of the '90s		Greatest Songs of the '90s		Christina Aguilera		My Fair Brady	Best Week	Christina Aguilera		Scott Baio 46	Celebrity Rehab		My Fair Brady
VS.	WEC WrekCage		NHL Hockey YoungStars Game & SuperSkills Competition.					Bull Riding PBR Built Ford Tough Series. From Albany, N.Y.				NHL Hockey YoungStars Game & SuperSkills Competition.					WEC WrekCage	
WE	★★ Mannequin (1987)				★★½ Look Who's Talking (1989)				John Edward Cross Country		John Edward Cross Country		★★½ Look Who's Talking (1989)				John Edward Cross Country	
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	An Evening of Stars: Tribute to Smokey Robinson UNCF.				WGN News at Nine (N)		Scrubs	Reno 911!	Reno 911!	24		Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil		
ENC	★★★ O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000)				★½ Batman & Robin (1997)				★★ From Dusk Till Dawn (1996)				★★½ Army of Darkness (1992)			★★ When a Stranger Calls (2006)		
HBO	★★ Poseidon (2006)				★★★ Breach (2007) Premiere.				Boxing Eddie Chambers vs. Alexander Povetkin.				Comedy Jam	★★★★ Children of Men (2006)				Chris Rock
MAX	Fast Times	The Texas Chainsaw Massacre			★★★ Galaxy Quest (1999)				★½ The Number 23 (2007) Premiere.			Best Sex Ever	Coed Confid.	★★ Dead Silence (2007)			★½ The Number 23 (2007)	
SHOW	★★★½ The Green Mile (1999) A condemned prisoner possesses a miraculous healing power.							★★½ Lucky Number Slevin (2006)				The L Word		★★ G (2002)			★★½ The Groomsmen	
STARZ	★★ Underworld: Evolution		★★★ Gridiron Gang (2006)				★★★½ The Lookout (2007) Premiere.		★★★ The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)						★★★ The Mummy (1999)			
TMC	★★ A Very Serious Person		★★½ Madea's Family Reunion (2006)				★★★ The Descent (2005) Premiere.		Masters of Horror		★★★ The Descent (2005)					Masters of Horror		Number One



VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Garbage bills due Jan. 31 in Monessen

The Monessen city treasurer reminds residents that the deadline for paying the garbage collection fee at $105 is Jan. 31. On Feb. 1, the fee will be $120. If you did not receive a garbage bill, call the city treasurer's office at (724) 684-9716. Failure to receive a bill does not excuse anyone from paying penalty and interest. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fish fry set in Monongahela

A fish fry will be held 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 130 West Main St., Monongahela. The fish fries will also run 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, and each Friday, including Good Friday, through the Lenten season. The menu will comprise fish dinners, fish sandwiches, shrimp dinners, soups, homemade desserts and halushki. For takeouts, call (724) 258-7792.

Eucharistic Adoration set

A Eucharistic Adoration service will be held 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, St. Dominic worship site, Donora.

Cash bingo set in Rostraver

The Holy Name Society of the Church of St. Anne Parish in Rostraver Township is sponsoring a cash bingo 7 p.m. Friday. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

WEDDINGS

Allen-Sheperd

Andrea Karin Sheperd and Branden James Allen were united in Holy Matrimony on Sept. 15, 2007, in Fells United Methodist Church, Rostraver Township. The Rev. Scott Berkley officiated. A reception followed at the Valley Inn Social Hall.

The bride is the daughter of David and Esther Sheperd, of Carroll Township, and the groom is the son of William and Donna Allen, of Belle Vernon.

The bride graduated from Ringgold High School and received her master's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is employed as a dental hygienist by Drs. Belasco, Ober and Associates in Belle Vernon.

The groom is a graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School and received his bachelor's degree from California University of Pennsylvania. He is employed as a software developer by Q.S. Inc. in Delmont.

Matron and maid of honor were Melanie Berklovich and Megan Johnson, respectively. Bridal attendants were Danielle Vitale, Danielle Garing, Tracey Encapera, cousin of the groom, and Dana Tuomi. Junior bridesmaid was Shelby Pemberton.

Darrick Allen served as his brother's best man. Groomsmen were John Kotora, Mark Berklovich, Scott Tessmer and Jimmy Encapera, both cousins of the groom, and Aaron Tuomi.

Branden and Andrea Allen

The scripture reader was Dr. Benny Johnson.

Following a honeymoon in Aruba, the couple is residing in North Charleroi.

Francia-Kessler

Erica Kessler, daughter of Michael and Karen Kessler, of Red Lion, became the bride of Ed Francia, on Sept. 15, 2007, during a 4:45 p.m. service performed by the Rev. Patrick Rooney in Christ Lutheran Church, York, Pa.

The groom is the son of Ed and Kathy Francia, of Monessen.

Maids of honor were Kadie Enterline, of Baltimore, Md., and Emily Murphy, of Red Lion. Bridesmaids were Katie Francia, of State College, sister of the groom; Erika Gilbert, Christy Brashears, Mandy Eckenrode and Sarah Reinholt, all of York; Alyson Heath and Anne Vognetz, both of Danville; and Gabriela and Francesca Francia, both of Monessen and cousins of the groom;

Flower girls were Gianna Francia, of Monessen, cousin of the groom, and Carsyn Gold, of Red Lion, cousin of the bride.

Al Francia, of Ellicott City, Md., served as his brother's best man. Groomsmen were Tony Francia, Frank Francia and Dominick Francia, all of Monessen, Nick Francia, Rick Schwartz and Tom Lang, all of Belle Vernon, all cousins of the groom; Eric Hudak, of York, and Rob Gray, of Arlington, Va.

A reception was held at the Valencia Ballroom in York.

The bride is a graduate of Red Lion Area

Ed and Erica Francia

Senior High School and Penn State University. She is employed as an operations analyst by Constellation Energy in Baltimore, Md.

The groom is a graduate of Monessen High School and Penn State University. He is employed by Booz Allen Hamilton in Annapolis Junction, Md., as a computer engineer.

CALENDAR WATCH

Sunday

- Super Bowl hoagie sale order deadline, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Donora, (724) 379-6478 or (724) 483-7614.
- Mass-Unity Celebration in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.., Antioch Baptist Church, Belle Vernon, 3 p.m.
- Soup sale, Fells United Methodist Church, Rostraver Township, noon to 1 p.m.
- Spaghetti dinner to benefit American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Pasta Shoppe, Monessen, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday

- Genealogical Forum, Monessen Public Library, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Washington Township Area Senior Citizens meeting, Center on the Hill, 7 p.m.
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 22 of Charleroi meeting, post, 7 p.m.
- Overeaters Anonymous meeting, Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Rostraver Township, 10:30 a.m.

Frugal Living

What to do with worn-out jeans

Sara **NOEL**

DEAR SARA: My son has denim jeans that are torn in both knees and a pocket here and there. What do you do with the denim material once they are no longer wearable? Dust rags? I need ideas. I have five pairs that I need to do something with. I hate just throwing them in the trash. I spent a lot of money on these jeans. — **Melissa, Texas**

DEAR MELISSA: There are a few crafts you can try.

POT HOLDERS: Can be made by cutting a square from a pant leg. Two sides will have seams. Insert a section of a cotton towel, table felt or a product called Insul Bright combined with cotton batting. Stitch the two sides that remain open and you have a pot holder or hot pad.

PURSE: Can make a purse from the pockets. This doesn't require sewing. You simply cut the pocket out and use the leg seams for the purse handle.

PILLOW: Can cut off the legs and sew the openings and use the zipper to stuff the pillow.

Why not patch the knees and pockets? You can find fun patches at the craft store. Patches are due for a fashion comeback.

DEAR SARA: Do you have an easy way to clean oven racks? I have a new oven, and already the racks look as if they've been run through the mill. I can't stand the smell and fumes from oven cleaner, and a scrub pad doesn't do a good enough job for me. Thanks for your help! — **Laura, New Hampshire**

DEAR LAURA: Place the racks in your bathtub in hot water and add powdered dishwasher soap. Let it soak overnight. You can also replace the dishwasher soap with ammonia.

DEAR SARA: I have my home for sale. It's getting a lot of people visiting, but no offers yet. It's in good shape, and nothing needs repair. While it's not brand-new, it's a great house. Can you think of anything that I can change cheaply that might help? — **Annie, via e-mail**

DEAR ANNIE: Think like a buyer. First, make sure that your closets are well organized. Remove items if you have to. If a buyer sees stuffed closets, they immediately think there's not enough space. You should try removing personal items, too. For example, you're showing the features of your house and not the 10-point buck hanging on the wall. Remove any strong themes, collections or bold colors. Buyers might be instantly turned off by it. I'm still scarred for life from a picture I saw hanging above the bed of a house I visited. Let's just say it was titled "Lion and His Mate." Enough said.

If a bedroom is small, remove some furniture. If the focal point of your living room is a window or fireplace, then clear a visual and physical path to showcase it. Pull furniture away from walls and windows. Buyers tend to look at kitchens, bathrooms and storage, so have those areas look their best.

The buyer sees the outside and entryway first. You want that area to look exceptional, so invest in small details outside like potted flowers, a new doormat, door wreath and a mailbox. They help give a positive first impression. Your entryway should have good lighting and be free from clutter, too.

Finally, if you have pets, don't leave any sign that you do. No smell, fur or toys, etc. Although some people love pets, others don't.

Sara Noel is the owner of Frugal Village (www.frugalvillage.com), a Web site that offers practical, money-saving strategies for everyday living. To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com

VALLEY CLUB NOTES

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Catholic Daughters of the Americas held its Christmas dinner Dec. 12 in Marian Hall of Mary Mother of the Church.

Tables were decorated in Christmas colors with snowmen as centerpieces. Regent Diane Stankiewicz gave the welcome, the invocation and led the flag pledge.

Following dinner Stankiewicz introduced the officers and guest, past District Deputy Lorett Forte.

Members introduced their guests. A collection was taken for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Entertainment was provided by Adam Sutch playing the hammered dulcimer, with which he has earned national honors. He is a student at California High School.

The snowmen door prizes were won by Rose Carson, Kathleen Driesen, Mary Rosick, Stankiewicz, Joan Mocilan, Irene Hlavacik, Forte, Celeste Corona, Mary Constantino, Penny Dooley, Kathy Abercrombie, Kay Briggs, Freda Deems, Norma Pasquinelli and Dorothy Paterline.

Share the wealth was won by Erma Abercrombie, Pat Lehr and Pasquinelli.

The group will next meet March 12 in Marian Hall.

Donora Historical Society

The Donora Historical Society has announced its program schedule for the months of February and March, which will focus on Heroes, the society's theme for 2007-2008:

Feb. 5 - Doris Wade, retired Ringgold School District teacher, will speak on Five Church Heroes. The subjects of her presentation will be well known persons of faith who manifest their Christian commitment in their personal lives and contributions to their communities.

March 5 - Todd Flynn will speak on the subject of Heroes of the Greatest Generation. He will focus upon Americans who grew up in the Great Depression, served in the military, industry, or government in World War II, and became national, state and community leaders after the war. Flynn is currently a teacher in the Upper St. Clair School District.

The meetings of the Donora Historical Society are held at 7 p.m. in the social hall of Calvary United Presbyterian Church, Seventh Street and Thompson Avenue. Refreshments are served after the meetings.

Valley Grapevine deadline set

Items for Valley Grapevine should be submitted at least five publishing days prior to scheduled meetings or events.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: F equals K

"RPGXAPY: EBX AXWHGX MPG AXWHGXW." - ZXP EPZWEPT "BX'W EBX FHIA PM RPGX VBP'W BXGX EPALT LIA BXGX EPYPGGPV."

- RHIIHX RLGIXW

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "As a teenager I was more of an anarchist, but now I want people to thrive and be harmonious." - Nicolas Cage

(c) 2008 by NEA, Inc. 1-26

Charleroi Homemakers

The Charleroi Homemakers met in the Char House Jan. 10.

Crafts were discussed for Valentine's Day and Easter.

The craft for February will be a wash cloth bunny.

Doughnuts will be served for a Valentine treat.

The next meeting will be held 10 a.m. Feb. 14. New members are welcome.

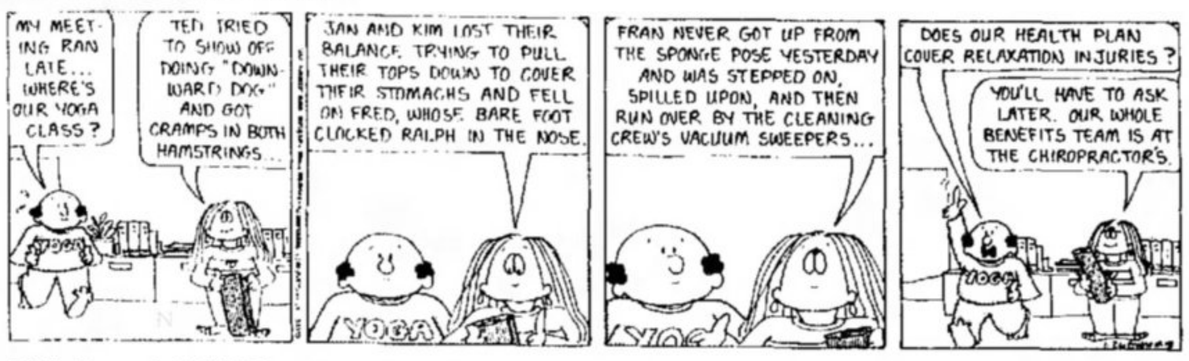
Charleroi Elks
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
9PM
Capricorn Nite
80's Music with DJ Kim
$2.00 Cover
All Capricorns Receive a Free Gift
Public Welcome
Benefits: Elks Charities
(724) 483-4727

TRAVEL GETAWAYS
Hilltop Tours
c/o Jack (724) 684-5733
The Meadows
Feb. 10th $14pp
(Bonus: $5 food & $5 slot dollars)
Wheeling Island
March 1st $17pp
(Bonus: free buffet & racing program)
Seneca Niagara & Allegheny Casino's
March 29th & 30th $110pp db. occ
(Total bonus $35)

Rostraver VFD #1
Spaghetti & Ravioli Dinner
SUNDAY
JANUARY 27th
11AM - 6PM
Eat In or Take Out
Spaghetti.....$5.50
Ravioli.....$6.50
Half & Half. .$6.00
724.379.7838
Rt. 906 - Webster Fire Hall

Washington Twp. Vol. Fire Co.
MONDAY
B-I-N-G-O
JANUARY 28, 2008
REG. GAMES 100 • SUPER 7 750
3 EARLY BIRD SQUARES 500 EA.
2 MAGIC NO. 500 EA.
JACKPOT 1600
FREE Hot Dog & Drink
724-929-4172 or 724-929-9898 Doors Open 5:00

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite


MY MEETING RAN LATE... WHERE'S OUR YOGA CLASS?
TED TRIED TO SHOW OFF DOING "DOWNWARD DOG" AND GOT CRAMPS IN BOTH HAMSTRINGS...
JAN AND KIM LOST THEIR BALANCE TRYING TO PULL THEIR TOPS DOWN TO COVER THEIR STOMACHS AND FELL ON FRED, WHOSE BARE FOOT CLOCKED RALPH IN THE NOSE.
FRAN NEVER GOT UP FROM THE SPONGE POSE YESTERDAY AND WAS STEPPED ON, SPILLED UPON, AND THEN RUN OVER BY THE CLEANING CREW'S VACUUM SWEEPERS...
DOES OUR HEALTH PLAN COVER RELAXATION INJURIES?
YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK LATER. OUR WHOLE BENEFITS TEAM IS AT THE CHIROPRACTOR'S.

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

"POUG" IS WHAT'S WROUG WITH OUR SOCIETY?!
AN OBSOLETE VIDEO PING-PONG GAME?!
I'M NOT A SOCIOLOGIST! I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT!
BUT YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT!

MONTY® by Jim Meddick

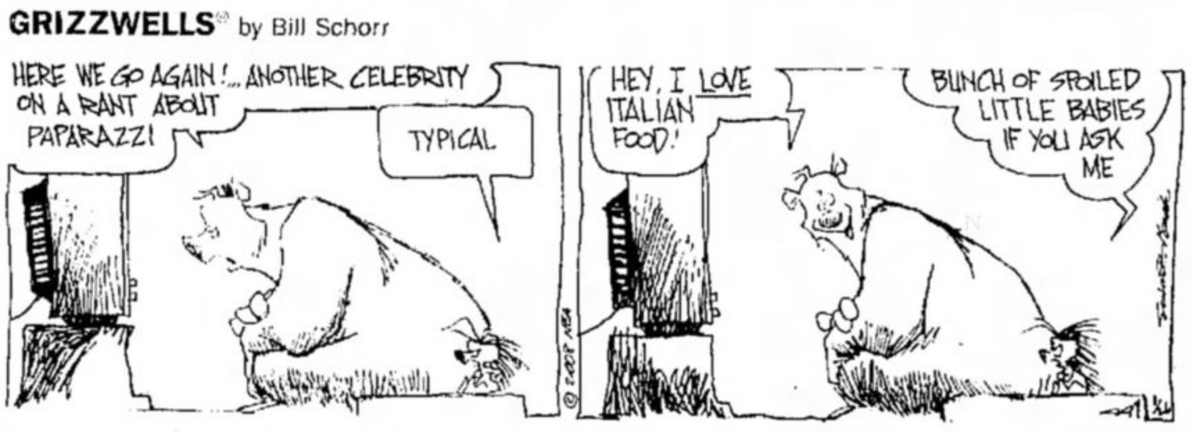
E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com

DOES LOLA WANT HER PEE-WEE DOLL? LOES LOLA WANT HER PEE-WEE?
"PEE-WEE HERMAN"?
RRUFF RRUFF
YEAH, SOMETHING ABOUT DORKY MEN... SHE JUST LOVES 'EM. SHE WON'T EVEN GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT HER PEE-WEE.
REALLY? WELL... THAT'S NICE, I GUESS... THAT'S...
GOOD LORD, SHE'S SHAKING IT BY ITS NECK!
YEAH, IT HELPS HER UNWIND BEFORE BED...
AND...AND WHAT'S THAT LITTLE FLESH-COLORED PULP ON HER PILLOW?
OH, THAT WAS HER "DILBERT" DOLL.

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

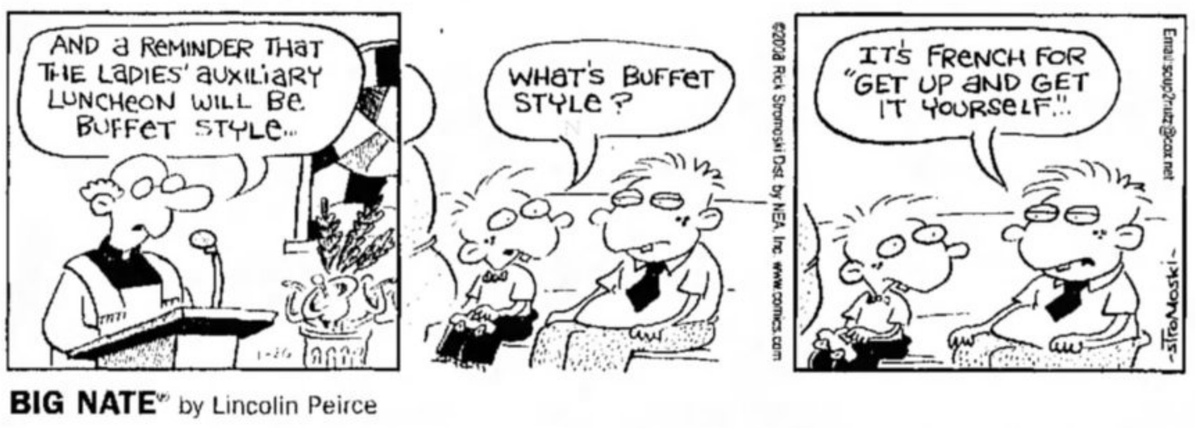
I LIKE GOING OFF BY MYSELF IN THE WOODS...
...NOBODY CRITICIZING ME OR RIDICULING ME. I'M FREE TO DREAM AND BE WHAT I WANT!
1-26
GREG + MORT WALKER

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr


HERE WE GO AGAIN!... ANOTHER CELEBRITY ON A RANT ABOUT PAPARAZZI
TYPICAL
HEY, I LOVE ITALIAN FOOD!
BUNCH OF SPOILED LITTLE BABIES IF YOU ASK ME

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves

SOUP TO NUTZ® by Rick Stromoski


AND A REMINDER THAT THE LADIES' AUXILIARY LUNCHEON WILL BE BUFFET STYLE...
WHAT'S BUFFET STYLE?
IT'S FRENCH FOR "GET UP AND GET IT YOURSELF"...

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM WITH YOU DOING ORIGAMI, NATE, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MAKE ANY MORE TABLE FOOTBALLS.
OKAY, OKAY.
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING ELSE.
GOOD!
PIFF!

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue

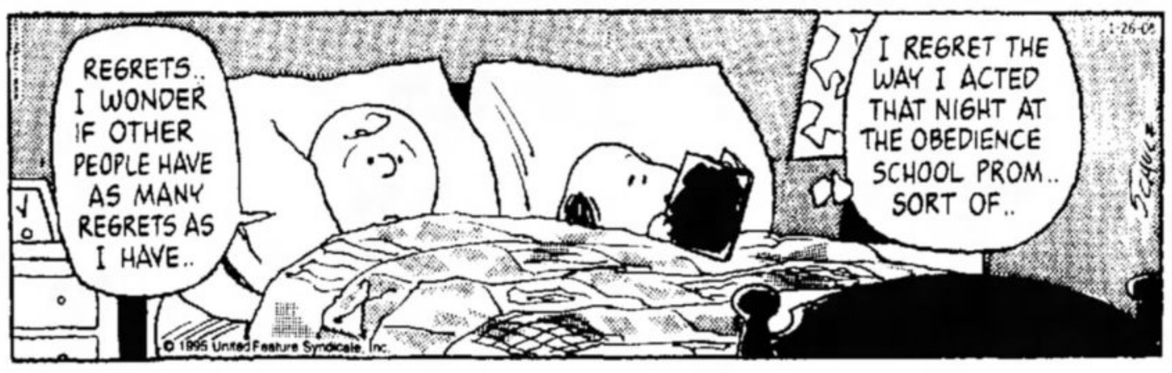
LOOK, I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT! TELL OOGLA T'LOOK FOR ME INSIDE THAT CAVE... AND HURRY!!
DON'T WORRY, MR. OOP! I'LL TELL HER TCOME RIGHT AWAY!
GREAT! THAT'LL GIVE ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TMAKE A FEW PREPARATIONS FOR HER ARRIVAL!

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

LET'S MAKE TRAIL THINK WE ARE LEAVING THE AREA...THEN WHEN HE GETS IN THE OPEN AGAIN, WE'LL HAVE A GOOD SHOT!
THE ONLY REASON THEY WOULD HAVE TO KILL ME IS TO KEEP ME FROM TELLING THE POLICE ABOUT LUKE'S CONFESSION...
AND NOW THEY ARE LEAVING...IT'S A MYSTERY!

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz


REGRETS.. I WONDER IF OTHER PEOPLE HAVE AS MANY REGRETS AS I HAVE..
I REGRET THE WAY I ACTED THAT NIGHT AT THE OBEDIENCE SCHOOL PROM.. SORT OF..
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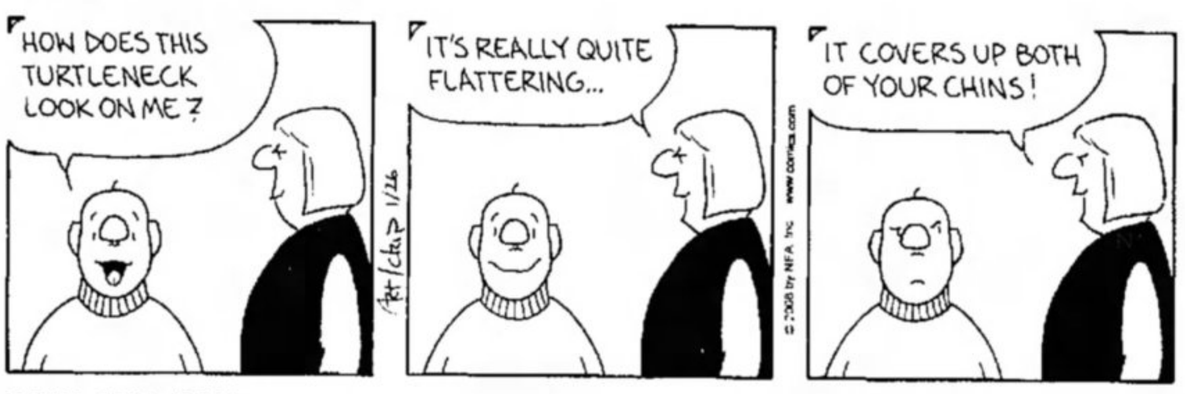
HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom



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1-26
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The Valley Independent Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Gives it the gas
5 Jet-setter's need
9 Float like a cork
12 Comics canine
13 Sooner city
14 Turkish potentate
15 Bland
16 Put in code
18 Bakery goodies
20 Relaxed
21 Astronaut's ade
22 Pull gently
23 In a lather
26 Long-active volcano
30 Snake River loc.
33 Smell badly
34 Crowd noise
35 Legal tender
37 Try to find
39 Universal rival
40 Hoopla
41 Bean or Welles
43 Ice-T genre
45 Kept in custody
48 Bedouins
51 Summer tops
54 Brought back a movie
56 Sink part
57 Brief craze
58 BBs
59 Unhurried gait
60 Workout locale
61 Barks shrilly
62 Took a good look

DOWN

1 Forum site
2 Proclamation
3 Imposing residence
4 Car models
5 Turn aside
6 Quaint lodgings
7 Attack word
8 Farewell
9 Words from Scrooge
10 Curved molding
11 Minstrel
17 Device that beeps
19 Horror-film servant
22 Little kids
24 Famed fabulist
25 Squint at
27 Thief of rhyme
28 Nitpick
29 Branch
30 I, for Wolfgang
31 Bad *hair* —
32 Venomous snake
36 Basil and sage
38 Cosmetic buy
42 Noxious weed
44 Test, as ore
46 Bad, bad Brown of song
47 Hang loosely
48 Pet shop sounds
49 Make hay
50 Slave girl of opera
51 Rope fiber
52 Hubbubs
53 Burned up the road
55 Ms. Thurman

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	N	G			C	A	Y		A	D	E
I	R	O	N	S		H	I	E		N	U	N
P	E	D	A	L		A	D	A	P	T	E	D
			S	E	A	N		R	O	I	L	S
	M	A	H	A	L		G	N	U			
R	U	B		Z	E	A	L		T	O	M	E
A	R	I		E	R	G	O		S	M	O	G
C	A	D	S		T	E	R	N		E	R	A
K	L	E	E		E	D	I	E		G	A	D
			C	U	D		E	S	S	A	Y	
M	I	R	T	H		E	S	T	A			
A	B	A	S	H	E	D		L	U	C	I	D
G	I	N		U	T	E		E	T	U	D	E
I	S	T		H	E	N			E	L	S	E

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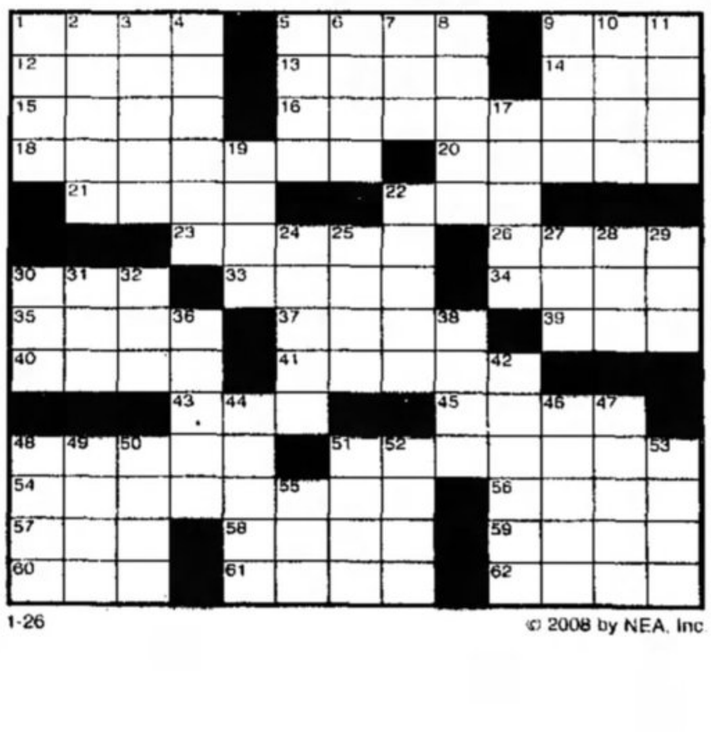

1-26

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Huckabee's experience as pastor an asset in race

Former Arkansas governor is a Republican presidential candidate.

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP Religion Writer

Associated Press

This photo provided by Ouachita Baptist University shows Mike Huckabee sitting on the university cafeteria steps in an image that appeared in the 1974 edition of The Ouachitonian, the yearbook of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (AP) — Mike Huckabee learned how to be a politician in church.

As pastor at Immanuel Baptist in Pine Bluff, he visited the home of every member. Years later, he could recall their names.

He learned how to raise money, even in struggling congregations.

And in a statewide fight over Baptist leadership, he confronted powerful opponents and won. He called it "some of the most intense hardball politics I have ever seen."

As a Republican presidential candidate, Huckabee's remarkable balancing act — firing up both Bible-believers and the less religious — can be traced to his style of preaching. On the pulpit, he delivered unwaveringly traditional sermons with wit instead of fury. The result was a broad appeal.

But the former Arkansas governor, who won the Iowa GOP caucuses, had a disappointing second-place finish behind Sen. John McCain in South Carolina last Saturday and has trimmed his campaign spending.

Still, he can't be counted out yet. Huckabee has a track record of finding resources where others see none.

In the 1980s, he discovered that Immanuel Baptist had years before pledged $10,000 to Ouachita Baptist University, the flagship Arkansas Baptist college and his alma mater (pronounced WASH-ih-taw), but never made the donation. This was no wealthy church, yet Huckabee persuaded congregants they had a moral duty to raise the funds, so they did.

In the GOP presidential race, he has shown that without much money, he can inspire grass-roots networks of conservative Christians — in Iowa and elsewhere — to turn out the vote.

"There's a political savvy that Baptist preachers who made it big in the Southern Baptist Convention learned from their mother's womb," said Bill Leonard, a former Southern Baptist seminary professor and dean of Wake Forest University Divinity School in North Carolina. "It's an instinct to know how to read populist moments and movements."

Huckabee, 51, grew up in Hope at a time when Arkansans planned their year around the fall and spring religious revivals and summer meant Vacation Bible School. Baptists argued over which of their churches was more obedient to Scripture. Fundamentalism was strong.

Huckabee called his childhood church "somewhat legalistic." He was taught that being faithful meant following rules and separating from people who disagreed. But he decided as a teenager that he needed more than a list of restrictions to support his beliefs.

"One of the few things I detest more than liberalism is legalism," he wrote in his book, "Character Makes A Difference." "It's really a set of do's and don'ts that allow someone to judge whether others are good people or good Christians."

That decision brought him out into a wider world, where he learned how to relate to people of different backgrounds and outlooks — an essential skill for both preachers and politicians.

He enrolled in 1973 in Ouachita Baptist University, a private liberal arts school in Arkadelphia. The small campus of red-brick buildings surrounding an open green sits on the banks of the Ouachita River.

The chapel is in a historic building of the more than 100-year-old school and still plays an important role in campus life. But despite its Baptist ties, the college was hardly monolithic.

Its 1,500 students were split between "saints and sinners" — with future ministers often keeping to themselves, said Daniel R. Grant, who was Ouachita's president at the time. Huckabee was among those on track for the pastorate. He majored in religion, married at age 18 and moved off-campus, working as a "preacher boy," or student pastor. But, unlike his fellow clergy candidates, he was also a disc jockey and played rock 'n roll bass guitar.

"I think he enjoyed cutting across lines," said Grant, who had recruited Huckabee to the college for his speaking skills. "He was certainly not in the mode of conservative preacher."

At Immanuel Baptist, his first major assignment, he made members feel welcome the same way great politicians do: by visiting with them — in this case at home — and remembering their names.

When he returned to mark the church's 90th anniversary in 2001, he has already been Arkansas governor for about five years. But "he remembered something about everyone," said Delma Parnell, a longtime church member. "He loved people," she said. "He spoke to every child."

The populist message at the core of his presidential campaign can be found in his old sermons.

In 1984 at Immanuel Baptist, he preached about leading a revival where worshippers rejoiced as prominent members of the community — an attorney, a businessman — accepted Jesus. He said he was heartbroken that people overlooked a young mentally retarded woman who also came forward.

"She always came alone and left alone. And to all outward appearances, nobody really cared," he said. "But God made a very big announcement that night. Although she may sit in that pew by herself, he loved her."

In a separate sermon, he said Jonah resisted God's command that he preach to the wicked people of Nineveh because "he was afraid they would repent and he would have to call them brothers."

"May I say to you that is exactly the nature of any kind of prejudice — be it religious prejudice or racial prejudice or social prejudice," Huckabee said. "Have you ever heard anyone say, 'We don't want that type of child in our church?'"

But his big-tent approach has left him vulnerable to detractors — in Southern Baptist and GOP circles — who say he's not conservative enough. Facing those critics has provided some of his toughest political lessons, making him a resilient campaigner.

In 1989, for instance, national Southern Baptist leaders wanted the next president of the Arkansas Baptists to sign on to their fierce purge of any moderate or liberal thinking in seminaries and churches. They backed the Rev. Ronnie Floyd, now of Springdale.

AREA CHURCH BRIEF

Kara to lead Roscoe service

Richard Kara, retired Pennsylvania state police officer and Presbyterian elder, will lead the 11 a.m. Sunday worship at the Roscoe Presbyterian Church.

As the church prepares for the Lenten season to begin, volunteer groups, couples or friends are invited to host one of the Wednesday night Lenten dinner programs, which start Feb. 6, Ash Wednesday, and proceed for the six weeks leading up to Easter, March 23. To volunteer, select the Wednesday and contact Linda Mudry. The light supper of covered dishes is provided by all those attending. The meal and Lenten program concludes within one hour.

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'Eggstravaganza' features ethnic art

Uniontown church will host Easter-themed event.

By EMMA JENE LELIK
For The Valley Independent

Folks interested in knowing more about the ethnic tradition of pysanky, decorating eggs, will enjoy the program planned for Feb. 24 at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church social hall on East Main Street in Uniontown.

This is the third year for the "Eggstravaganza" and many additional features have been added to interest all ages visiting the site.

There is no charge for admission and activities will go on from 12 noon until 5 p.m. Parking is also free. There will be a Lenten lunch menu available for purchase.

At various sites in the hall, egg artists will demonstrate, display and even sell some of their eggs.

A market place with pysanky supplies, Easter items and crafts, basket covers and other ethnic items has been arranged. Lamb butter molds, candles, egg wraps, sugar lambs and cook books are included.

Children's activities include storytelling, making Easter eggs and other projects.

There will be video showing of pysanky and pysanky making. Also planned is a display of Easter basket covers, pysanky jigsaw table and hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to create pysanky.

Pysanky artists usually start with white eggs and use various tools to create patterns and designs. The egg is then placed in a dye bath. The next step is to apply beeswax before being dyed again. This step is repeated several times until the design is completed. After the beeswax is melted off the egg, the entire pattern is revealed.

Other artists will demonstrate etching styles and methods known as egg scratching.

Pysanky is common throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic countries and various regions of the Balkans.

Emma Jene Lelik/For The Valley Independent

Sister Rita Keshock of the Sisters of St. Basil, Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, displays her style of work perfecting religious scenes on eggs at a previous Eggstravaganza.

February filled with significant days

Early Easter pushes up other religious holidays.

By EMMA JENE LELIK
For The Valley Independent

For those tired of a cold and dreary January, an eventful February is just around the corner.

As a matter of fact, Ash Wednesday is Feb. 6, the earliest, I'm told, that it can occur.

Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day. There will be lots of activity in Punxsutawney and we'll all be watching to see if Groundhog Phil sees his shadow. According to early German settlers, if the animal sees his shadow on that day, it will mean a "second winter" or six more weeks of cold weather.

I'm hoping he doesn't see a shadow and "spring will be just ahead."

Feb. 2 also happens to be Candlemas Day, when many churches will be blessing candles.

The day before Ash Wednesday is "Paczki" Day, or Fat Tuesday.

Tracing its origin to Poland and other Eastern European countries where cooks used many rich ingredients like sugar, shortening and eggs to make the famous fruit-filled doughnuts before beginning the Lenten fast, the tradition is also popular in the Mon Valley.

Evelyn Wayne (Wojtkowski), of Monessen, who celebrated big time when she lived in Hamtramck, Mich., still performs Polish music on her accordion to mark Paczki (pronounced "poonch-key") Day.

Roman Catholic clergy place blessed ashes on the foreheads of the faithful "to awaken the recipient to the beginning of a new season" on Ash Wednesday. The ashes are from burned palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday.

There's lots more in this shortest month of the year. However, this is Leap Year and there will be a Feb. 29.

Abraham Lincoln's birthday is on the 12th and George Washington's is the 22nd. A joint observance, known now as Presidents' Day, is Feb. 18.

And we must not forget, Valentine's Day is Feb. 14.

Chinese New Year 4706 is Feb. 7.

That should be enough to keep everyone busy for a few weeks.

Easter, according to the Gregorian calendar, will be an early one, March 23. Orthodox Christians, who follow the Julian calendar, will start their Lent March 10 and observe Easter April 27.

March has its share of good news. St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's days are on the 15th and 17th, respectively.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 9.

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St. Spyridon marks Vasilopeta

The Annual Vasilopeta Dinner was held recently at the Hellenic Center in Monessen.

This century-old family custom is observed by Eastern European families in the old world as well as the new.

St. Basil, a Bishop of the Orthodox Church, placed coins and gems into cakes and breads. He distributed these baked goods to the poor, the needy, and the suffering.

From left are William J. Manus, Church Council President; The Rev. Demetrios Gardikes, pastor at St. Spyridon; Lukas Cervenak, 2008 coin winner; and Tommie Kosko, President of the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Vasilopeta is a good-luck egg bread that contains a coin. J.J. Georgagis, owner of Keystone Bakery, prepares three large loaves for this occasion.

The guest who finds this coin is said to be blessed with good fortune for the entire year.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society, under the leadership of President Tommie Kosko, prepared the dinner for this event. Although the Vasilopeta is the highlight of the day, other food is served in Greek style.

The Rev. Demetrios Gardikes blessed the bread and read a litany of prayers. The bread was cut and served to each person present.

According to custom the first piece was set aside for the Lord Jesus, and the second for the Virgin Mary and the Patron Saint, St. Basil.

Proceeds are donated to St. Basil' Academy.

The following leaders of the various organizations received the next portions: choir director Bill Leogas; Chantor, Kalliopi Apodiakos; reader, George Papantonakis; altar boy captains, Donald Fakner, John Gardikes and Chase and John Feher; parish council president, William J. Manus; Philoptochos co-chairs, Mary Leogas and KC. Bagiatis; Prosphoron preparation, Nafsika Papanastasiou, Kay Alatsis and Freda Kootsouradis, St. Spyridon financial secretary, Carl Menego; bookstore and spiritual library, Lola Manus; food festival chairmen, Bill Leogas, Maria Hough, and Jim Georgagis; Gyro Palace, George Apodiakos and Nino Forlini; AHEPA president, Angelo Loulis; Voice Collator, Irene Papantonakis; and Vasilopeta baker J.J. Georgagis.

An anonymous donor pays for the bread.

The youngest member in attendance was Sidney Callaway and the oldest was Freida Costas. The 2008 coin winner was Lukas Cervenak.

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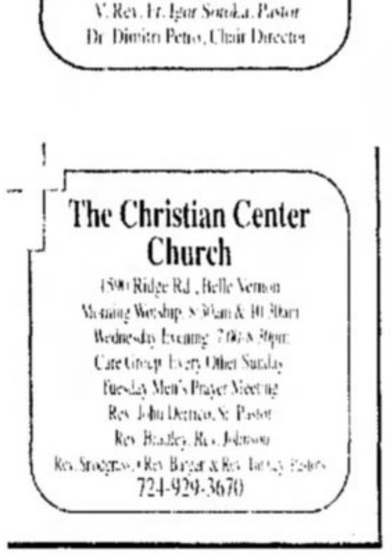

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Bernice Bede Osol

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SUNDAY, DEC. 30, 2007

January 20 through February 18

A number of shifts in conditions will be in the offing for you in the year ahead. The one that will be the most interesting and please you the most, however, could involve financial situations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Generally, you are the type of person who always gives others the benefit of the doubt. But should this admirable quality be inoperative and you misjudge those you're with, trouble will ensue.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Be friendly and sociable with neighbors or drop-ins, but not to the point where you ignore your obligations. Those who are depending on you will be deeply disappointed if you don't come through for them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- If you back down under pressure from others who aren't as qualified as you concerning a hard decision you've made, don't expect to achieve your objectives. You can't be successful operating on uncertainties.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Doing what pleases you is apt to take precedence over doing your duty or doing what is right. You may have momentary fulfillment, but the price you pay is not worth it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Someone you are trying to help might be the very person who will give you the greatest resistance. It won't matter to him or her whether you are right or wrong -- only that he or she is momentarily satisfied.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Testy conditions will prevail concerning a joint arrangement, especially if neither party is willing to accept the other's point of view. Either one could ignite a major confrontation at the drop of a hat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- When it comes to someone who has helped you out when you needed assistance, make every effort to come through for him or her now. Don't let minor desires take precedence over this obligation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- If you are smart, you will keep gambling out of all competitive activities you have with friends. Regardless of the outcome, it is one of those times when all you'll get out of it is poor winners and sore losers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Yield to your compassionate instincts, and let your heart rule your head in all involvements that are vital to you. Most important, don't attach any strings to your generous gestures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Some secret news you have may make very interesting conversation if revealed to others, but it will not be honorable and certainly not worth losing valuable relationships over. Don't report the juicy gossip to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Be extremely cautious about getting involved in a business arrangement with a close friend. If conditions don't complement the venture, it won't be just the pursuit that could fail, but the relationship as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Your objectives can be achieved, provided you are able to remain friendly and grateful for the help you receive. If you become anxious and pushy, the people whose help you need will back off under the discomfort.

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APPLIANCE Repair person needed. Inquire within. EZ Layaways 426 Fallowfield Ave. Charleroi, PA

AUTO PARTS Counter Person. Basic auto knowledge & phone skills required. Pitt-Mon 1-800-245-1203.

BAR HELP for local club. Mature, responsible. Hours vary. Mail replies: 101 W. Main St. Monongahela PA 15063.

CAREGIVER needed for daycare in Charleroi. For more info call 724-483-5295.

CARE MANAGER
The PDA Waiver Program of Southwestern PA Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is accepting applications for a Care Manager. This position will be responsible for providing community-based long term care management services, developing and maintaining in-home care plans and monitoring the overall service effectiveness in support of the consumer. Must have a Bachelor's degree in social work or related field with 1 year of refated experience preferred. Interested persons may submit resume to: P O Box 66, Charleroi, PA 15022 Attention: Department 0815. For additional information, log on to our home page address at: www.sphs.org Our email address is postmaster@sphs.org

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Wednesday, January 30, 2008
12pm-4pm
DONORA CAREER LINK
Call 1-800-485-6502
with questions or to secure interview

Construction Laborer - with previous nail gun and staple gun experience, ability to read a tape measure and operate hand power tools. Mon Valley location.

Ceramic Liner - previous lining of piping and elbows. Refractory or aluminum lining a plus. Mon Valley location.

Production Laborer - with previous manufacturing & production environment background. Ability to work in a team environment. Fast paced with overtime. Mon Valley location.

Fitter Welder - with formal training, ability to read prints, layout, fit and weld. Must have experience in mig and fluxcore on stainless and carbon steel. Mon Valley location.

CAD Drafter - with detail design background. Ability to read prints, understanding of dimensions and CAD experience in industrial environment. Daylight shift starting @ $16.50/hr. Canonsburg location.

Mechanical Assembly & Disassembly - with mechanical aptitude, no fear of heights, and use of wrenches, screw drivers and various hand tools. Opened to both daylight and afternoon shifts, starting @ $12.50/hr. Canonsburg location.

gs services

EOE/MF

BUS PERSON Lunchtime 11:30am-3:30pm & Bus person evenings & weekends 5pm-10pm. Must apply in person at Rego's Restaurant 601 McKean Ave., Charleroi

BOOKKEEPER/SECY
Growing fabrication shop seeks bookkeeper experienced w/accrual based system, incl. general ledger & journal entry. Must be detail oriented. Proficient w/email, Excel, MS office, weekly payroll, taxes, AR, AP & customer service. Non-smoking casual office. Fully paid life & health, 401K w/match. Fax resume: 412-384-2169. West Elizabeth

CURRICULUM SPECIALIST
Position available immediately. Requirements: admin. cert. elem or sec. with 3-5 years teaching experience and/or administrative experience. Minimum of Master's degree, preferred teaching certification in K-12 Reading or secondary mathematics. Strong knowledge of state standards, school improvement, curriculum and professional development. Computer skills a must. Send letter of interest, resume and standard Pa education application, transcripts, current Act 34, 151 and 114 clearances, cert. and a minimum of three reference letters to: Mr. Joseph R. Paulisick, Director of Human Resources, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, 102 Equity Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601-7190. Deadline February 29, 2008

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Develop and deploy relationship strategies with charitable foundations in support of various funding for the organization and its many programs.
Full-Time Position
Interested applicants must possess a minimum of 2 years fundraising experience, knowledge and experience in all aspects of Capital Campaign planning and fundraising and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Marketing, or related field (or proven work related experience). Valid Driver's License required.

Send Resume to:
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EOE

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Part-time position, approximately 25 hrs / week. Assist district managers with the delivery of newspapers to subscribers on routes that temporarily have no carrier. Must possess valid PA driver's license and reliable vehicle. Hourly rate plus mileage. Applications available at The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062 or email your resume to lhutchison@tribweb.com

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Monessen, PA 15062

2020/BID NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PIGEON CREEK SANITARY AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

Sealed bids for the construction of the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority Sewage Treatment Facilities 480 Volt Electrical Switchgear Replacement Project will be received by the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority located 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314 on February 13, 2008, until 3:00 P.M. local prevailing time, at which time and place, said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids may be mailed to the Owner at 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314. Attention: Mr. Rawl Harris, Chairman, and will be considered if received prior to the scheduled time of bid opening. The Owner assumes no responsibility for bids mailed but not received.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority located 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314 and at the Engineer's Office.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Chester Engineers, 260 Airside Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of $80.00 for each set. Make checks payable to Chester Engineers.

Telephone inquiries regarding the acquiring of documents for bidding may be made to the Engineer's Office at (412)809-6600. Only bidders receiving full set documents through the Engineer will be on record to receive Addenda.

Each bidder must deposit, with the bid, a certified check or bid bond security in the amount of 5% of the bid and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The work in connection with this project constitutes a Public Works by a Public Body under Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. Bidders are advised that prevailing minimum wage rates, promulgated by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor, which must be paid to workmen employed on this project, are incorporated in the Contract Documents.

Bidders are advised that they must comply with all State anti-kickback regulations pertaining to work associated with this project.

A Pre-bid Conference will be held at the Authority's Office, 508 Main Street, Bentleyville, PA 15314 on February 4, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. Prospective bidders may discuss the project at that time with representatives of the Owner and Engineer.

All bids shall remain irrevocable for sixty days after the actual date and the closing time for receipt of bids.

The Pigeon Creek Sanitary Authority reserves the right, which is understood and agreed to by all bidders, to reject all bids, to waive any and all informalities in the bids, and to refuse to consider non-conforming, non-responsive or conditional bids.

Rawl Harris
Chairman
1/26,30

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INSTALLERS/ Service Technicians. Experience preferred but will train. Apply in person 1175 Rostraver Rd., Belle Vernon, PA 15012. 724-929-8551.

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

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Monongahela

Stop by to view this 3 bedroom home with spacious rooms, deck and plenty of parking. Within minutes of Rt 43, hospital & shopping. Separate building for office or business. Zoned C-2. Asking $119,921. DIR: Rt. 88 N/S to left/right on Rt. 837 at Fisher Heights Giant Eagle. Home on right.

Century 21 FRONTIER REALTY 724-348-7470

CARROLL TWP.
7 acres, 3 bedroom Cape Cod. $125,000.

DONORA
Totally renovated with best materials, 3 bedroom 1½ bath in Cement City. Asking $69,900.

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Century 21 FRONTIER REALTY 724-929-2180

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

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FINLEYVILLE 4 bedroom, 2 story home. Large rooms, laundry on 1st floor. Home Warranty. Handicapped accessible. Reduced to $74,521.

NEW EAGLE 3 bedroom mobile in beautiful park. Handicapped accessible. Home Warranty. Offers welcome. $50,021.

NEW EAGLE 3 bedroom mobile in Eagle Pointe Est. Move in condition. Home Warranty. Beautiful interior. $54,921.

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DONORA
80 Thompson Ave. $49,000. 2 story frame house with covered front & back porch, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, carport, nice residential setting. Call D&P Realty at 724-225-7275.

DONORA
Reduced to $45,000. A lot of house for the money. 4 bedroom brick, fireplaces in living room & dining room, off-street parking. Call the Blakes 724-884-3216.

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3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

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CHARLEROI Own and earn duplex. Separate utilities, both sides rented. Great opportunity. $34,900.

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3540/APTS-RENT/FAYETTE

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3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

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CHARLEROI-large clean 1 bedroom apts., new carpet, furnished. $275-$325. 1 mo. free. David 1-688-477-9773.

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CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, huge rooms, very clean. Call 1-877-890-3863. $300+ utilities. 1st mo. FREE w/ security dep. & lease.

CHARLEROI
1 bedroom apt. Convenient downtown location. Secure bldg. Equiped kitchen, dishwasher, a/c, w/w carpet, laundry facility, community room, on-site parking. Applicants must be 62 yrs. or older & meet income guidelines. Call 724-438-3089.

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CHARLEROI up hill handsome large 1 bedroom, appliances, a/c. Some utilities included. No pets. 724-483-1321.

DONORA- large, 2 or 3 bedroom apt. equipped kitchen. Section 8 ok. No pets. On bus line. Call 412-833-3231.

DONORA- well kept 2 bedroom, ½ duplex. $425 incl. some utilities. 724-433-8707.

DONORA 4 rooms, bath. $375 garbage, water, sewage included. Call 724-379-9599.

N. CHARLEROI- unfurnished 1 bedroom, completely remodeled. Private off-street parking. $380+ utilities. 1 month security deposit & references. No pets. Call 412-953-8062.

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3560/APT-RENT/WMLD.

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3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

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3700/COMMERCIAL RE

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SPLIT/ seasoned, cherry/ hardwood. 1/2 cord del. $65. B.V. 724-816-2630.

SPLIT, SEASONED
1/2 cord, $65
full cord, $130
Call 724-640-5277.

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ROBERT HANNAN vinyl, hardwood, carpeting, ceramic. Ins. Guaranteed. 724-929-4330.

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STAR FUNDRAISING, INC. Subs, cookie dough, fresh/ frozen pizzas...All groups. 724-547-8008.

GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS
PANELS done professionally to fit any opening. Very reasonable. 724-379-4255.

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CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds. Scrap metal hauled. 724-483-2140.

HAULING CONT.
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&
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All Types of Hauling
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Dump Truck Service
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412-780-0862
Credit Cards Accepted

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HANDYMAN WORK- plumbing & electrical repairs, carpentry. Mark 724-825-7981.

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Rising Energy Costs
Save 30% to 50%
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GOOD CREDIT - BAD CREDIT
FOR AUTO RATES
We know our rates Best
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LAWN MOWER REPAIR
BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del. 724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE
LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins. 724-258-3407.

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John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. Over 11 yrs in business. 724-684-5014, 724-628-7349.

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HANDYMAN MATTERS - Randy & Sandy McMahon

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BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining. Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins. 724-929-6595, 929-9313.

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INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable Michael Lundy 724-292-9004.

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PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters. 724-929-9765.

PLUMBING
GRECO PLUMB. Sewers opened, sewer, gas, water line installation, basement water proofing, water tanks. Prof. service. 724-684-4439, 379-8197.

NEAL PLUMBING Registered Master, professional service. Fully ins. 724-258-0113.

PLUMBING CON'T
QUICK RESPONSE Plumbing. Heat/AC. Registered Master. Certified gas line installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797

LENDWAY & SONS - general plumbing. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

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REMODELING
PAGER BROS. Remodeling. Int. & Ext. 20 yrs. exp. Ins. 724-931-0521.

ROOFING
A.T. KOURY new roofs, roof repairs, licensed & insured, chimney work, gutters, free est. 724-684-6042.

ROOFING CON'T
LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

LENDWAY & SONS ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

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JIM G's roofing, soffit, fascia, siding, Fully ins. No down payment. 724-258-6777.

You can advertise your service for as low as $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

SEPTIC CLEANING
MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime. 724-929-8152.

SNOW REMOVAL
SNOW REMOVAL & Ice Control. Cain's Contracting. Exp. Rea. Reliable. 724-489-4131.

STORAGE
A+ MINI STORAGE
5X10 $35 - 5X15 $40
10X10 $50 - 10X15 $55
10X20 $60. + Sales Tax.
805 Liberty Ave.
N. Charleroi.
724-483-6000.

TREE REMOVAL
TREE-CO big tree specialist. Trimming, log & stump removal. 724-929-4337.

TREE PRO- tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097

3G'S TREES & stump removal. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

Call The Classified Department Today To Place An Ad

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PICTURES TO FEATURE YOU
on the job performing your service, as shown above. You can mail photos to The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa 15062 or email to lmajor@tribweb.com (please include your name & business)

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TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

FLEA MARKETS & GARAGE SALE

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

MOVING Sale- Trains for Kids, now thru Jan 31 Lionel- MTH- Thomas- Williams, others 0-027- G-N-HO Scales Call Ed at 412-480-8505

LOOKING TO MOVE? REAL ESTATE EVERY SUNDAY CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1000/GENERAL

MODEL SEARCH
Have The Look?
Men, women, children teens, infants, 6 mos and up for TV, advertising, fashion, credit Placed models on Rescue 911, People Magazine, many others Apply in person
SUN , JAN 27, 2008
at 6:30 pm Sharp
Holiday Inn
I-70 & Rt 51
Belle Vernon
If under age 18, must be with parent
VAN ENTERPRISES
PA licensed, bonded since 1973

PROGRAM ASSISTANT to provide a caring, family-like environment in the Belle Vernon area Responsible for assisting with the day-to-day operations of a group home. Benefits available. Call to schedule interview 724-929-8137. EOE

SECURITY GUARD
Immediate Opening
For Part-Time
Security Guard
MON VALLEY
CARE CENTER
200 Stoops Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063
Please Call To Apply
724-310-1111

Soil Erosion Technician Position
Full-time position available immediately Position requires a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Agriculture, Engineering or related field Must have own transportation to use on the job and be able to walk over rough terrain. Mileage is reimbursed. The position requires extensive fieldwork and engineering plan reviews. Full benefits. Qualified individuals should send resume, college transcripts and letters of reference to Washington County Conservation District, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 105, Washington, PA 15301. No phone calls or walk-ins.

1025/DRIVERS

★ **DRIVERS** ★
Immediate Openings
Class A & B Drivers
Local and OTR
Competitive Wage & Benefit Package
Also Needed
CLASS C LABORERS
Call 1-800-537-3152

LIFT VAN DRIVERS & Taxi Drivers. Must have clean drivers license. Apply at Tri County Access, 1001 Meldon Ave., Donora.

1040/MEDICAL

Highlands Hospital
Manager Respiratory Therapy
Respiratory care practitioner with experience in both clinical & administrative functions Will manage cardiopulmonary department, oversee operation of newly opened Sleep Lab, and provide respiratory therapy services to both inpatients and outpatients

Assistant Director Rehab
Licensed PT to assist Director with coordination of rehab services (including speech and OT) and on-site fitness center Will also provide clinical PT services to both inpatients and outpatients

Diabetes Program Support
RN or RD with experience in Diabetes Education

Mental Health-RN
For inpatient care setting Related experience or a sincere interest in developing mental health nursing skills required

Nurse Practitioner
CRNP with mental health and/or research experience Must be independent worker and detail oriented

RNs – ICU, ER
Requires critical care training, related experience preferred

Respiratory Care Practitioner
Registered or certified respiratory care practitioner.

Aerobics Instructor
Certified aerobics instructor. Will teach 4th through 12th grade students during school hours, hours and schedule will vary.

Full-time and part-time positions include full benefit package. Casual and "Weekender" positions also available Free on-site parking. On-site fitness center! Easy location just off Rt. 1195 between Greensburg & Uniontown Send resume or call for application:

Human Resources Dept.
Highlands Hospital
401 E. Murphy Ave.
Connellsville, PA 15425
724-626-2314 EOE

1040/MEDICAL

EXERCISE Specialist immediate opening FT/PT High volume, multi disciplinary practice Mon Valley area Email resume pghhealthworx@comcast.net

Jefferson Hills Manor
Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation
Is Now Accepting Applications for
RN's
Full & Part-Time Positions
Daylight, Afternoon Shifts
We Offer Competitive Wages & Excellent Benefits
- Submit Resume to -
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Unit Coordinator
Jefferson Hills Manor
448 Old Clairton Rd
Jefferson Hills PA 15025
Phone
412-653-1128 ext 140
Fax 412-653-2330
maryp@jeffersonhillsmanor.com
EOE

CASEWORKER
The Protective Services Program of Southwestern PA Area Agency on Aging, Inc is accepting applications from qualified candidates Responsibilities will include receiving and investigating reports of abuse of older adults, carrying out client assessments, developing service plans, providing emergency involuntary intervention and serving on the 24-hour Emergency Team Master's Degree in Social Services desired or a Bachelor's Degree in Social Services or related field with a minimum of 3 years' direct aging experience required Interested persons must submit resume to P.O. Box 66, Charleroi, PA 15022, Attention Department 0814 For Additional information, Log On To Our Home Page Address At www.spbs.org Our E-mail Address Is postmaster@spbs.org
An Equal Opportunity Employer

NURSE'S AIDE- 3-11 shift only. $7.25/hr. Apply in person: Country Care Manor, Fayette City 724-326-4909

1050/SALES

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Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of
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Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available.
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Closed Friday

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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Bill at 412-523-2306

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Call 724-684-2647

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24 Papers
Davidson Dr.
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Goalsworth, Virgil L.
ADMINISTRATOR NOTICE

Letters of Administration on the estate of VIRGIL L. COATSWORTH, Court Term No. 63-08-00072, late of Roscoe, Washington County, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills of Washington County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.

JAMES W. HAINES, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1202 WEST MAIN ST.
MONONGAHELA, PA 15063

Virginia Stringer,
Co-Administratrix
P.O. Box 537
Roscoe, PA 15477

Diane M. Bonde,
Co-Administratrix
602 Green Street
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
1/26,2/2,9

My, Oh, My Time Sure Does Fly We Can't Believe Our Drama Queen Has Already Turned The Big 13!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BRIANNA FROLO!
Love, Mommy, Daddy & Derek

Happy 62nd Anniversary To My Wife
Alice Traversari
Love,
Ed and Family

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Solan, Anella B.
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of ANELLA B. SOLAN a/d/a ANELLA SOLAN of Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Letters testamentary for the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to those indebted therein to make immediate payment and to those having claims or demands to present them for settlement

Andrew H. Solan,
Executor
1153 Willowbrook Road
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
1/12,19,26

4000/ADOPTION

ADOPTION
Adoption is a courageous decision for you. We promise a life of love, safety, security to your precious newborn. Exp. pd. Laurie & Martin 1-866-202-4737 X 1025

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? LOSE SOMETHING?
Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
-No Court Appearance
or Travel To Office
-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

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AUTOMOTIVE
REAL ESTATE
HELP WANTED
CLASSIFIEDS
WORK!
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ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

CLOTHES- girl's size 8-10, name brand, nice. $25 for bag. Leave message 724-314-3051

HARLEY DAVIDSON leather & wool jacket XL, excellent condition, $136.00 724-872-0151

5010/APPLIANCES

GAS STOVE- Frigidaire, good condition. Moved, can't use. $50. Leave message 724-314-3051

REFRIGERATOR Crosley 22.8 cf, icemaker, 6 yrs. old, exc. $225. 724-929-9307.

5020/ARTICLES

CANISTERS for kitchen, good condition, white. $10 for set. Leave message 724-314-3051

FIREPLACE GRATE 24 inch, never used, $15.00. Call 724-379-5104.

FIREPLACE LOGS artificial, electric, retro 60's style, $15.00. Call 724-379-5104.

5050/BUSINESS EQUIPMENT

RESTAURANT, equip., building with 2 bedroom apt. for sale. Price negotiable. Call 724-366-3901.

5130/FURNITURE

END TABLES (2) solid walnut, $30.00. Call 724-379-5104

5150/HOME HEALTH CARE

LIFT CHAIR- 3 years old, hunter green, excellent. Paid $600; sell $304. 724-929-4963.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

GOLF CLUBS Power Built new, never used w/bag, $283. 724-483-6724, 412-551-4848.

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5195/SPORTING GOODS

SKI BOOTS size 11 Salomon men's, $10.00. Call 724-379-5104

5220/WANTED TO BUY

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
$CASH FOR$
Broken or Unwanted Gold or Platinum
Chains, Bracelets
Rings, Etc.
Gold & Silver Coins
Diamonds &
Estate Jewelry
Highest Prices Paid
THE JEWELTIQUE
724-225-1455
$ $ $ $

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BUYING GOLD & SILVER COINS JEWELRY & DENTAL GOLD PLATINUM & LIONEL TRAINS
Highest Prices Paid
-- WILL TRAVEL --
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A Cut Above the Rest Buying
STANDING TIMBER & LOGS
Free est. Highly recommended w/references in your area. 1 acre min. Call JE Logging 724-455-5723 or 724-322-0302

WANTED- Ham radio equipment, receivers, any condition. Call 724-326-4930

WANTED TO BUY: cash for blue/gray crocks & military items. 724-929-7895

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST female German Shepherd, 1 broken ear, named "Sonny", Charleroi area. 412-773-2408.

6030/TRUCKS

1992 CHEVY S10 4x4, new tires, needs engine. Best offer. After 2pm 724-379-5126.

2004 S10 Crew Cab-41K miles, tan, show room condition, garage kept. Nego. 724-483-7105.

LOOKING FOR LOVE? CHECK OUT MEETING PLACE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

USED AUTO PARTS
At Affordable Prices
C&M AUTO RECYCLING
MONONGAHELA
724-258-3553

6060/VANS

2002 Ford E350 V8 diesel, $4,000. 2004 E250 Ford Econoline V8 gas. $7,500. 724-489-9581.

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

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Same Vehicle.....
Thousands Less
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Bentleyville
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www.tregemboford.com

WE NEED Your TRADE!
2007 FORD F150 STX S/C 4x4, 4K miles, white. CLEAN!
2004 FORD Focus ZTS Sedan, 2.3, 5 speed, 29K miles
2005 FORD Taurus SE, maroon, tan leather, moon roof
2005 FORD Ranger SC, 2WD, 27K miles, power windows & locks.
2005 FORD F150 SC, XLT 4x4, 12K miles, super. CLEAN!
2006 HYUNDAI Sonata GLS Sedan, V6. VERY NICE CAR!
2006 FORD F250 Reg Cab, XLT, 4x4, powerstroke, 6 speed.
2006 HYUNDAI Elantra GL Sedan, 4 cyl., 5 speed, 23K miles.
2005 FORD Freestyle AWD, SEL, 3rd seat, two tone paint!
2005 FORD Sport Trac XLT, 4x4, 26K miles. REDUCED $18,995.
2008 FORD Taurus SEL, leather, moon roof. SAVE THOUSANDS!
2008 FORD Escape 4x4, Limited, Red Fire, tan leather. NICE!
2007 FORD Fusion SE, maroon, auto, 4 cyl., 9K miles. CLEAN!
2007 FORD E250 Cargo Van, power windows/locks. READY FOR WORK!
2008 FORD Escape XLT, 4x4, Red Fire, 6 cyl., auto. SAVE!
2007 LINCOLN Town Car, Sig Series, SAVE THOUSANDS BELOW BOOK!
2007 MERCURY Grand Marquis, white, tan leather. NICE CAR.
2007 HONDA Accord EX Cp., auto, 10K miles, moon roof. REDUCED.
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4 Dr., Great MPG!
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SAVE NOW!!

2008 ESCAPE XLT
4x4, 4 door,
Moon, Leather,
Chrome, Beauty,
Good MPG SUV
Was $27,305
Now: $24,400

2008 FUSION SEL
Sporty Sedan
Sport, Leather, Satellite Radio, Loaded,
Save Gas
4 cyl., FWD
Was $22,985
Now: $19,965

2008 FORD EXPLORER
XLT 4x4, 4 door,
Leather, Moon, Satellite Radio, 3rd Row Seat,
Beautiful, Safe, SUV
Was $31,975
Now: $27,450

2007 FOCUS
3 Door SE
Infrared, Sporty, Nicely Equipped, Great MPG
Was $17,150
Now: $13,700

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6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

1989 MERCURY Marquis. Very clean, 107K. Estate sale. $795. Call 724-483-6380.

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Paying $75 to $125
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2007 JEEP Wrangler, P745. 2 to choose from. X model under 5K for only $18,995

2007 DODGE Magnum SXT. P747. Sale Price at only $17,995.

2007 DODGE Caliber R/T P748. AWD, auto, a/c. Now $16,995

2007 DODGE Charger P751. FWD, auto, a/c. $16,995

2008 DODGE Avenger SXT P750. Save - Only $14,995

2006 BUICK Lacross #8286A. Only 13K. $15,995.

2006 CHEVY HHR #7393A. auto, like new. $12,995.

Rt. 51N, Belle Vernon
724-379-7300

R&M AUTO SALES
724-929-6900

1996 MERCURY Sable, V6, auto, 4 dr. $2,500.

2001 OLDS Alero loaded w/options. $5,500.

1995 MERCURY Sable, V6, auto, 4 dr. $1,795.

1997 CHEVY Cavalier, 4 cyl., auto. $2,200.

1998 KIA Sportage, 4 cyl., auto, 4x4. $3,595.

1997 CHEVY Blazer, V6, auto, 4x4. $2,500.

1998 FORD Explorer XLT, V6, 4 dr. $4,200.

1997 FORD Explorer, V6, AWD. $3,995.

1999 PONTIAC Grand AM SE, 2 door, 4 cyl., auto, CD player. $3,995.

6100/WANTED TO BUY

JUNK CARS, TRUCKS & VANS
Wanted to Buy
-- $75 & Up --
Free Towing
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Buying Junk & Wrecked Cars & Trucks
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2003 to 2006 FORD F-150s, SILVERADOS, and DODGE RAMS Now Priced From Only $13,995

HERE'S A PARTIAL LISTING OF OUR FEATURED PREOWNED VEHICLES

2001 Ford Taurus	4,995	2003 Chrysler PT Cruiser	8,995
2007 Mercury Mountaineer		2005 Ford Focus	
2006 Ford E-350		2005 Ford F-450 Dually	
1998 Ford Ranger	6,995	2004 Dodge Stratus	9,995
2007 Mercury Grand Marquis		2004 Ford Ranger	
2005 Ford Five Hundred		2005 Ford F-150	13,995
2004 Kia Sorento	13,995	2006 F-350 Flatbed	
2007 Ford Edge		2004 Chevrolet Cavalier	8,995
1998 Chysler Cirrus	4,995	2004 Chevrolet Dump Truck	
2005 Dodge Dakota		2006 King Ranch Expedition	
2001 Pontiac Grand Am	3,995	2006 Chrysler Town & Country	16,995
2008 Ford Escapes - 6 to choose from		2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature	
2005 Chevrolet Cobalt LS - Leather		2000 Subaru Forrester 37K mi	11,995
2004 Hyundai Elantra	6,995	2007 Ford E-350 15 Passenger Van	
2006 Mercury Milan		2005 Ford F-250 Diesel SuperCab	
2005 Chevrolet Equinox	15,995	2003 Ford Explorer	8,995
2007 Ford Focus SE		2004 Ford Focus - 31K miles	
2003 F-150 SuperCrew 4X4	16,995	2006 Eddie Bauer Ford Expedition	
2007 Ford Mustang GT - 3K miles		2003 Dodge Ram Quad Cab 4X4	15,995
2007 Taurus SEL 3 to choose	13,995	2007 Ford Freestyle	
2006 Ford F-250		2001 Ford Ranger Edge 4X4	9,995
2005 Ford Focus		2006 Ford Ranger SuperCab	
2002 Ford ZX2	3,995	2003 Ford Ranger Edge 4X4	11,995
2007 Ford Escape Limited		2007 Ford Explorers - 2 to choose from	
2005 Ford Escape	11,995	2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac	17,995
2007 Club Wagon		2006 Mercury Mountaineer	
2004 Ford Freestar	12,995	2006 Ford Mustang Convertible	
2004 Ford Excursion		2004 Chevrolet Silverado 4X4	15,995
2006 Ford F-250 Long Bed		2005 Ford Explorer - 3rd Seat	
2005 Chevrolet Cobalt	9,995	2006 Lincoln Mark LT	
2004 Mercury Sable Wagon		2003 Ford Explorer Limited	11,995
2004 Ford Taurus - 3 to choose from		2007 Ford Mustang Convertible	

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A Very Special Way To Say...
Happy Valentine's Day
To Your Child, Grandchild, Niece, Nephew, Favorite Baby or Sweetheart
To Be Published
Thursday, February 14, 2008

Valentine Sweethearts

It's easy, just send us a cute color photo. Include child's name and a short personal message and mail to us by Thursday, February 7, 12 Noon. Your child's photo and message will appear on a special page Thursday, February 14, 2008.

PAYABLE WHEN AD IS PLACED

Fill in and Mail to Valley Independent, Eastgate 19 Monessen, PA 15062 -- Send Cash, Check or Money Order.

Amount Enclosed _____ (Write Copy Below)

$25.00 2x3 (Photo) $15.00 1x3 (No Photo)

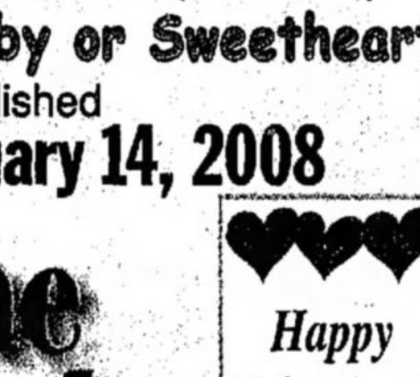
USE THIS COUPON WHEN MAILING PHOTO

(Print Complete Message) (Submitted By: Name, Address & Phone)

Happy Valentine's Day
Suzie
Love,
Tom

(Actual Size) **Just $15.00**

Starr, Alivia & Monique Yauger



Happy Valentine's Day
We Love You!
Mommy and Daddy

(Actual Size) **Just $25.00**

A Real Keepsake
THE Valley INDEPENDENT
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

Great People Making A Difference

Annual Report Year Ended June 30, 2007

here's always one constant behind any successful organization — a group of great people that makes a difference.

Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc. is extremely fortunate to have such a group — people who display commitment, dedication and passion. From maintenance and food service to medical and nursing staff, board and administration, and volunteers, Team MVH consistently displays the qualities of success for our Health System and, more important, for our patients and our community.

Throughout this publication you will discover some of the differences being made by our group of great people. Team MVH.

MVHR Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc. HEALTH CARE

Message To The Community

— Vince Lombardi

Health care, like any business, constantly faces familiar and new challenges to our ability and, hopefully, our willingness to continue providing quality services to our community. Elsewhere in this Annual Report you will read about some of the ways we confronted those demands during the past year, but one effort, our *Journey To Excellence*, is especially significant. *Journey To Excellence*, a system-wide program also known as J2E, is designed to improve the culture of Monongahela Valley Hospital and all of Mon-Vale Health Resources' related entities so as to maximize physician, employee, guest and, most important, patient satisfaction. The most basic goal of the project is to advance our health care system from good to great.

Embarking on that ambitious journey has incorporated the full acceptance of its concept and ideals by everyone in our health system. It mandates teamwork in every sense of the word.

In his book, The Baptist Health Care Journey To Excellence, CEO and author Al Stubblefield contends that, "The culture is what really matters. If there is no winning culture, the business can't succeed and compete over time."

Our Boards agreed with that theory when the J2E idea was presented and they remain unanimously solid in their support of the program. The Boards understand the importance of increased patient satisfaction, safety and the potential financial and operation ramifications of ignoring these issues. Likewise, our Medical Staff understands the concept and has embraced it as a vital and viable part of our team at MVHR.

The same can be said for those throughout our health system – at Monongahela Valley Hospital and at the off-campus facilities that also provide quality and skilled services.

Are we doing well in all of those operations?

Yes.

Can we do better?

Yes, indeed.

None of us should, or will, ever be content to rest on our laurels. We will never become too satisfied with doing just the usual "good job."

All of the cutting edge technology in the world doesn't mean a thing if all members of our team do not demonstrate the ability and willingness to go beyond the traditional aspects of patient satisfaction. Each of us must be willing to roll up his or her sleeves and roll with the proverbial punches to assure that what we do and how we do it is in your best interest.

Mere words, reams of ideas on paper and myriad acronyms are meaningless unless the core values of the *Journey To Excellence* become reality. And we always welcome your input in this effort, either through our Patient Satisfaction surveys or with your cards and letters. Granted, we like to hear all the good things about our health system. But it is just as important that we know about what we are doing wrong. That information helps us to improve.

The results of surveys and your thoughts and words mean a lot to us. We track and study those communications closely. It is important, and imperative, that we correct any problems that exist, and we constantly look for ways to do just that.

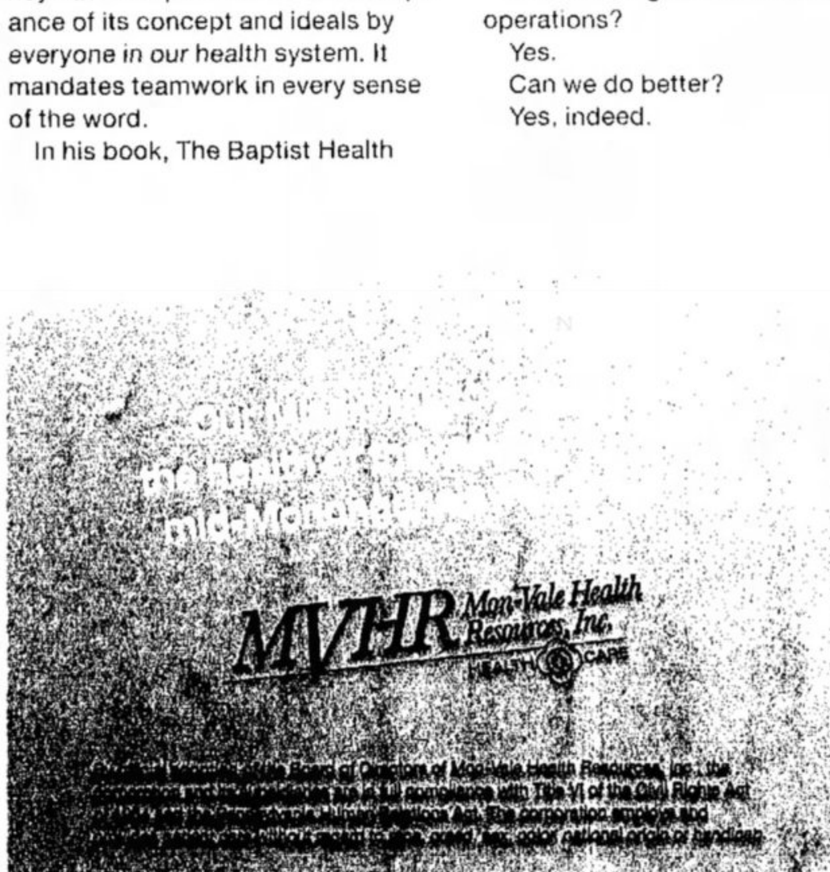
Fortunately, Monongahela Valley Hospital has been able to maintain itself as a healthy independent resource for our community. This is due in great measure to the commitment and work of our physicians, employees, volunteers, and Board leadership and support from you.

It has been said that past deeds make for good, sometimes interesting conversation, but not much more. The secret, however, is to sort out those qualities worth retaining and build on them for a better future. Our partnership with you is always worth building on. Anything we do must exceed good and sometimes interesting. Any success we enjoy must be achieved because it evolves to benefit you.

Ronald A. Lutes, D.O.
President, Medical Staff

Louis J. Panza Jr.
President and CEO

Alan R. Guttman
Chairman, Board of Directors



Accreditations

- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health
- American College of Radiology
- American College of Radiology, Committee on Mammography Accreditation of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation
- Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons As A Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program
- American Association of Blood Banks
- Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services
- Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Accreditation
- College of American Pathologists (CAP) Accreditation for Laboratory
- Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL)

Certifications

- American Diabetes Association Education Recognition Certificate for quality diabetes self-management education programs at Monongahela Valley Hospital and at the Center for Fitness and Health at Mon-Vale HealthPLEX

Memberships

- American Hospital Association
- Hospital and HealthSystems Association of Pennsylvania
- Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania
- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- The Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative (PRHI)
- VHA Inc.

Participations

- Pennsylvania Medical Society (Medical Preceptorship Programs)
- State Board of Nurse Examiners (Nursing Education)
- State Board of Pharmacy (Extern Program)

Leadership

Dr. Jenkins

Dr. Lementowski

Mr. Miller

Mr. Sweeney

Serving on the Board of Trustees of Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc. during Fiscal Year 2006-2007 were: Pictured Below: Seated (l-r) – Richard A. Barcelona, Vice Chairman; Alan R. Guttman, Chairman; Louis J. Panza Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer; John D. Fry, Secretary; Standing (l-r) – S.P. Hewie, M.D.; Joseph U. Frye; Mrs. R. Carlyn Belczyk; Carl Crawley Jr.; Ms. Dana Caruso Shirreffs; Daniel F. Simmons, Treasurer; Charles Mula; Michael J. Skirpan Jr. Also serving on the MVH Board in 2006-2007 and shown in the insets were Robert J. Jenkins Jr., M.D., Michal Lementowski, M.D., William J. Miller Jr. and Patrick R. Sweeney. Mr. Panza, Mr. Guttman, Mr. Barcelona, Mr. Fry, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Belczyk and Dr. Lementowski served as the Executive Committee of both Boards.

Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc.
Board of Directors
Mr. Alan R. Guttman, Chairman
Mr. Richard A. Barcelona, Vice Chairman
Mr. Louis J. Panza Jr., President/CEO
Mr. John D. Fry, Secretary
Mr. Daniel F. Simmons, Treasurer**
Angelo Armenti Jr., Ph.D.
Mr. Patrick Ballon
Mrs. Lillian C. Beattie
Mrs. R. Carlyn Belczyk
Mrs. Bernice H. Bollman
Mr. Andrew G. Bury
Walter R. Cox, M.D.
Mr. Carl Crawley Jr.
Ms. Carol Ann Doman
Mr. Joseph U. Frye
Mr. Henry R. Glaneman
S.P. Hewie, M.D.
William D. Hope Jr., V.M.D.
Mr. David T. Hunter
Mr. Jeffrey D. Imbrescia
Robert J. Jenkins Jr., M.D.
R.G. Krishnan, M.D.
Michal Lementowski, M.D.
Ronald L. Lombard, D.Ed.
Mr. Anthony M. Lombardi***
Mr. William J. Miller Jr.
Mr. Charles Mula
Mrs. Karen L. Quinto
Ms. Dana Caruso Shirreffs
Mr. Michael J. Skirpan Jr.
Mr. Gerald C. Smith
Charles E. Stacey, Ph.D.
Mr. Patrick R. Sweeney
Mr. J. Edgar Williams*
Mr. Charles W. Zubritsky III

Monongahela Valley Hospital
Board of Trustees
Mr. Alan R. Guttman, Chairman
Mr. Richard A. Barcelona, Vice Chairman
Mr. Louis J. Panza Jr., President/CEO
Mr. John D. Fry, Secretary
Mr. Daniel F. Simmons, Treasurer**
Mrs. R. Carlyn Belczyk
Mr. Carl Crawley Jr.
Mr. Joseph U. Frye
S.P. Hewie, M.D.
Robert J. Jenkins Jr., M.D.
Michal Lementowski, M.D.
Mr. William J. Miller Jr.
Mr. Charles Mula
Ms. Dana Caruso Shirreffs
Mr. Michael J. Skirpan Jr.
Mr. Patrick R. Sweeney

Emeritus Board Members
Mr. Aldo L. Bartolotta
Mr. William R. Boyles
Mrs. Florence B. Golomb
Mr. C. Edwin Matheny
Dr. C.L. Melenyzer* (Honorary)
Mr. George R. Sweeney II
Mr. John Umstead
Robert R. Urban, M.D.
Joseph M. Young, M.D.

* Deceased
** Non-Voting Member
*** President/CEO Emeritus

Medical Staff

Dr. Bowser

Dr. Kotwal

Dr. Pressman

Dr. Solan

Leading the Monongahela Valley Hospital Medical Staff in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 was the Executive Committee comprised of:

- In the photo at left (l-r) – R.G. Krishnan, M.D., Vice President; Scott L. Baron, M.D., Immediate Past President; Ronald A. Lutes, D.O., President; Umberto A. DeRienzo, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer.
- In the insets above: Stephen A. Bowser, M.D., Nirmal D. Kotwal, M.D., Ari E. Pressman, M.D., James A. Solan, M.D.
- In the photo at bottom: Seated (l-r) – Walter R. Cox, M.D., Surinder K. Aneja, M.D., Sanat Shroff, M.D., Silvana Yovanof, M.D., Ambaram V. Chauhan, M.D., John R. Hauser, M.D., Richard A. Young, D.P.M.; Standing (l-r) – L. Douglas Pepper, M.D., Vinod Chablani, M.D., Andrew C. Allison, M.D., Thad Osowski, M.D., Charles N. Lebovitz, M.D.

Enhancing Our Culture

Fiscal Year 2007 marked the beginning of our Journey To Excellence. This system-wide project is designed to improve the culture of Monongahela Valley Hospital and all of our related entities so as to maximize patient, physician, employee and guest satisfaction. As part of our Journey To Excellence, we are focusing on six primary goals from which all decisions will be made. They are Safety, People, Service, Quality, Finance and Growth. All team members of Mon-Vale Health Resources have participated in ongoing training regarding our Journey To Excellence and we have eight service teams dedicated to advancing our health care system from good to great. Success in these efforts has been evident in a continuous improvement in overall patient satisfaction levels as determined by our participation in the Press Ganey surveys. The basic tenet of Journey To Excellence, developed by the Baptist Leadership Institute at Baptist Health Care in Pensacola, Florida, is to develop growth as a health system, as a team and as individuals.

Journey To Excellence team leaders Daniel Bucci, Ruth Sepesky, Ward Mosser.

Journey To Excellence team leaders and sponsors are:
- Top (l-r) – Karen Pritts, Lynda Nester, RN, Kristin Pergola, Ray Andrews.
- Above (l-r) – Susan Campus, Larry Rusnock, Vickie Harkins, Renee Hurley, Daniel F. Simmons.
- Right (l-r) – Donna Ramusivich, Roxanna Shento, RN.

These J2E leaders are (l-r) Tammy Watson, Donna Kemp, RN, Mary Lou Murt, RN, Lisa Hruby, RN, Lauren Altemara and Christopher Banish.

Benevolence

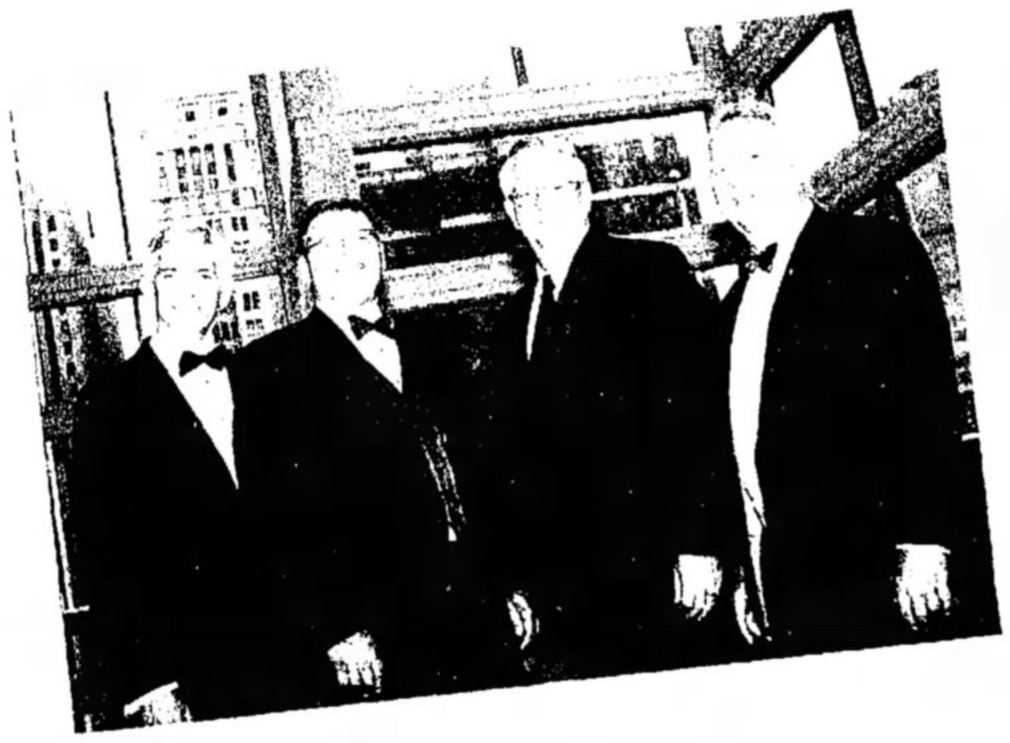
The success of Night at the Circus, Monongahela Valley Hospital's Nineteenth Annual Gala, which raised over $121,000, advanced fund-raising efforts of the Fund Development Committee of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc. in Fiscal 2007. At the end of Fiscal 2007, fund-raising by the Committee totaled $4,168,557 since its inception in 1988. This aggregate figure includes:

Pathways Promoting Progress In Health	$ 707,803
The First Eighteen Galas	$1,837,768
Hearts That Care	$ 248,457
Community Campaigns	
Regional Cancer Center Expansion	$ 518,238
Emergency Department Expansion	$ 735,291

The Fund Development Committee was formed to assist and advise the MVHR Board of Directors in the solicitation and disbursement of charitable contributions. During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, it was chaired by S.P. Hewie, M.D. and also included Mrs. Lillian C. Beattie, Mrs. Bernice Bollman, Ms. Carol Ann Doman, William D. Hope Jr., V.M.D., Ms. Maxine Horton, Mr. David T. Hunter, R.G. Krishnan, M.D., Mr. Anthony M. Lombardi, Mr. Louis J. Panza Jr., Mrs. Dorothy Paterline, Mrs. Karen L. Quinto, Mr. Daniel F. Simmons and Mr. Gerald C. Smith. Ms. Horton served until her death on June 19, 2007.

The following list represents contributions of $500 or more by individuals and organizations, or designated as *In Memory Of* or *In Honor Of*, made to our Health System's fund-raising efforts during Fiscal Year 2006-2007. We are deeply grateful to all who are acknowledged here.

Albert Gallatin Home Care and Hospice
In Honor of Our Fathers, Raymond Frank and Walter Alberts
In Honor of Malikkal Alvi
AMCOM Office Systems
AmeriNet Central
Surinder K. Aneja, M.D.
Anthony International
Apria Healthcare
Ashcraft Records Storage & Management
Dr. Shobha Asthana and Mr. Raj Bhatnagar
Auxiliary of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc.
Badzik Printing Service, Inc.
In Memory of Jack and Ethel Barcelona
Gene and Carlyn Belczyk
Biotronics, Inc.
In Loving Memory of Barbara Brettell by Family, MVH Family and Friends
In Loving Memory of Barbara Brettell from Cardiology Department
E.J. Burns Construction, Inc.
Carbis Walker LLP
Joseph and Elizabeth G. Caruso
Centimark Corporation
In Memory of Charlie
Dr. Anbarasan Karan, legal and Craig Gladstein
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Clark
Colonial Acceptance Company
Consolidated Graphic Communications
Dr. and Mrs. Edgar C. Cordero
In Memory of Tom E. Cox
Dr. and Mrs. Carlo Crudo and Family
CSC Insurance Options
Tom and Karen Cullen
Dade Behring, Inc.
In Honor of Harry and Blanche Davis
Delaware Investments
In Memory of Umberto A. DeBenzo, Sr., M.D.
Dicke, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.
Donora Downtown Committee
Lois Orange Ducoeur Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
Dr. Martin and Madeline Dukas
Alice and Harry DuJordan
Emergency Resource Management, Inc.
Ernst & Young
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O. Frye
Jack and Karen Frye
Fujifilm Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc.
Gateway Health Plan LP
General Industries General Contractors/Donald J. Ivill
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. George
Floyd and Eunice Giles
Great Lakes Advisors, Inc.
In Appreciation to Dr. Natal Zaghloul and His Staff – John B. and Winona B. Gotti
The Guttman Group
Howard Hanna Smith Real Estate Services Charity Care Golf Outing
Dr. John and Mary Jude Hauser
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
In Honor of Our Grandchildren, Jason Michael Hoover and Andrew Blake Hoover
In Memory of Our Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Horner and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Marrone
My Gratitude to MVH for my Years of Service – Patty Horniell
Imaging Associates of Greater Pittsburgh
WPA Chapter, N.E.C.A. and I.B.E.W. Local Union #5
Dr. and Mrs. Ashok K. Jain
Jaycee Foods, Inc.
Jefferson Pilot - The New London Financial Group
David W. Jones Company
Jordan Food Service
Joseph's Nursery & Garden Center
KPMG Katz Ferraro McMurtry, PC
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP
Dr. Norma and Mr. Deepak Kotwal
Dr. & Mrs. R.G. Krishnan & Family – In Loving Memory of His Parents – M.N.P. Ramaswamy & Ponnammal
Subramania Krishnaswamy, M.D.
The Lementowski and Gallo Families
Lumbach Company
LINC Mechanical Services
In Honor of Our Loving Parents, Cliff and Marie Litterini
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony M. Lombardi
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Lukes
Marlton Risk Group
Marsh USA, Inc.
Patsy Marturco Family
In Memory of John Moses Marynchak
Frank and Dolores Mascara
In Memory of Louis P. Maleya, Sr.
Medical Rehabilitation, Inc.
Medical Staff of Monongahela Valley Hospital
Medline Industries, Inc.
Mrs. Rose Sweeney Melenyzer
Mele Design
MJS Medical Physics, Inc.
Mon Valley Anesthesia Associates, P.C.
Mon Valley Care Center
Mon Valley Community Federal Credit Union
Mon Valley Pathology Associates, Ltd.
James P. Monzelewski, M.D.
Monessen Elementary Center
Employees of Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc.
Chuck and Joanne Mota
Pamela Ann Mota
National City
Norman C. Ray Trust Fund
Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
In Loving Memory of Brianna Trader from The Orthopedic Group, P.C.
In Loving Memory of Patricia Thompson by Mr. and Mrs. H. Osborne
OSPTA - e Home, LLC
Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy Associates, Inc.
Owens and Minor
In Memory of Mary Pallone
Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Panza, Jr.
Peacock Keller
Penn Credit Corporation
Pittsburgh Transportation Company
Dr. and Mrs. Vassil Prokhov
Prudential Financial Services
Psychiatric Care Systems, P.C.
Quality Reimbursement Services
Quest Diagnostics, Inc.
Donna Ramusivich
Reinhart Food Service
RelayHealth
In Memory of Frances "Coach" Bongiani
In Memory of Joyce Clark Sabo
Saint Jude Medical Cardiac Rhythm Management Division
In Memory of Margaret Scheponik Laboratory Supervisor by the Laboratory Department
Schneider's Dairy, Inc.
In Honor of Mr. Chandrakant C. Shah and Mrs. Kokila C. Shah
Dana Caruso Sherretts
Dr. Sanat and Varsha Shroff
Siemens Communications, Inc.
Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc.
Daniel and Patricia Simmons
In Memory of Betty Skirpan Wife and Mother
Smith & Nephew Richards
Karl Storz
Sun Imaging Services, LLC
SWPA Cardiovascular Associates
Synthes, Inc.
The Baptist Leadership Institute
H.L. Thomas, Inc.
TriWin Risk Management Services, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Charles J. Tucker
Dr. and Mrs. Charles P. Tucker and Family
Tyco Healthcare
U.S. Security Associates, Inc.
UPMC Health Plan
Oscar and Diana Urrea – In Honor of Their Children: Alex, Lisa, Christian
Valentour English Bochnak & Howell Architects
Volpatt Construction Corporation
In Honor of Our Children by Dr. and Mrs. Kevin A. Vrablik
In Memory of David Giffin and Rita E. Werner and George W. and Barbara Thalwall
WesBanco Bank, Inc.
West Penn Radiation Oncology Associates, P.C.
In Memory of Ann Wilcang
Yanni Partners, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Young and Family
Andrew J. Zahalsky, M.D., Amy Zahalsky, Eliana Zahalsky
Zimmer Randall Associates, Inc.



Sharing the Gala 19 spotlight are Dimensions In Performance Awards recipients (left to right) James A. Solan, M.D., Sickman Award for Dimensions In Medicine; Jerry Zahand Sr., Gibbons Award for Dimensions In Community Service; John D. Fry, Pallone Award for Dimensions in Board Leadership, and Raymond A. Volpatt, Rose Award for Dimensions In Philanthropy.

Gala 19

Nearly 600 guests gathered under the MVHR Fund Development Committee's Big Top to enjoy Monongahela Valley Hospital's Nineteenth Annual Gala, Night At The Circus, at the Westin Convention Center and Hotel in Pittsburgh. Recognition of Dimensions In Performance Award recipients was a traditional highlight of the event. The festive atmosphere also was emphasized by the antics of crowd-pleasing clowns, exotic animals and special decor at the pre-dinner reception and in the Allegheny Ballroom, where guests were treated to sights and sounds of the circus. Pure Gold provided music for dancing after dinner and keyboard artist Larry Sieters entertained during dinner.

Demonstrating the functions of the Lowboy bed are (left to right) Joyce Reed, RN, Nurse Manager of 6-East; Dana Painter, RN, 6-East; Mrs. Maureen Lusk, President of the Auxiliary of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc., and Amy Andrews, RN, Nurse Manager of 6-West.

Tradition of Giving

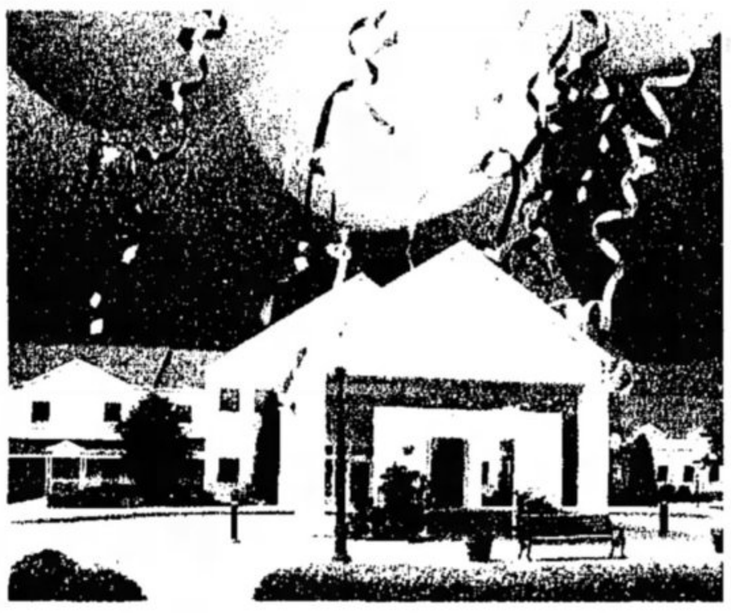
The Auxiliary of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc. perpetuated its legacy of support to our Health System by presenting $75,500 as its annual gift to MVHR. Mrs. Maureen Lusk, Auxiliary President, presented the 2007 contribution to Louis J. Panza Jr., President and CEO, at the volunteer organization's 29th annual Appreciation Dinner in the Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center. Mrs. Lusk emphasized that the traditional monetary gift "represents the dedication, commitment and work of all" of the nearly 200 members of the Auxiliary. The contribution was used to:

- Purchase additional Lowboy beds, which are designed to lower closer to the floor and reduce the risk of injuries associated with falls. With the lower beds, staff are better able to adjust the bed height so the patient's knees are bent at a 90 degree angle to assist them when getting into and out of bed. The beds also are equipped with three levels of alarms to alert staff when a patient is attempting to exit the bed.

Another advantage of the Lowboy beds is that the patient can be weighed while still in bed, thus eliminating another risk for a potential fall when a patient is moved to be weighed.

- Purchase an Exit Writer system for use in our Emergency Department. The computerized program contains more than 2,000 patient instructions and is written in an easy to read style with color illustrations. When a patient receives these instructions, they are individualized and can contain prescription and referral information. Exit Writer's discharge instructions have been refined in clinical practice and meet JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) requirements for education and documentation at the time of discharge from the Emergency Department.

This year's monetary gift brings the Auxiliary's total contribution for the past 29 years to $2,748,155.



Celebrating A Decade Of Quality Care

The Residence At Hilltop assisted living community in Carroll Township marked its Tenth Anniversary with a celebration for residents, their families and friends and the public.

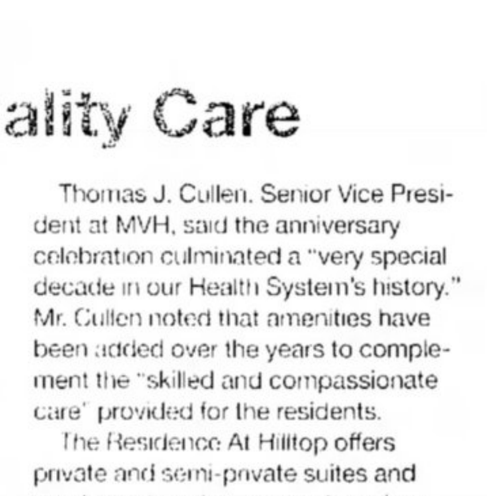
The festive event included refreshments, prizes and entertainment by The Moonlighters big band. Tours of the facility also were provided by RAH staff.

Constructed by Mon-Vale Non Acute Services on the site of the former Hilltop Drive-In Theater, The Residence At Hilltop opened and was dedicated on June 1, 1997.

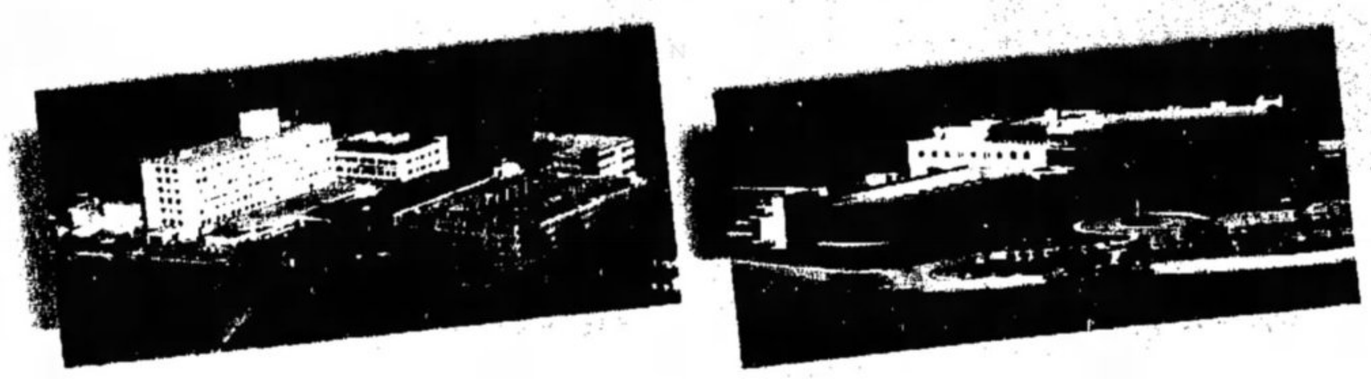
Thomas J. Cullen, Senior Vice President at MVH, said the anniversary celebration culminated a "very special decade in our Health System's history." Mr. Cullen noted that amenities have been added over the years to complement the "skilled and compassionate care" provided for the residents.

The Residence At Hilltop offers private and semi-private suites and combines housing, support services, personal assistance and care to residents who need help with the activities of daily living.

Fighting Crime



The Fund Development Committee of Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc. provided another major boost to community safety for the Carroll Township Police Department early in 2007. Thanks to funding by MVHR, Carroll Township purchased another Taser™ gun which is equipped with a video camera. According to Police Chief Paul Brand, who is shown displaying the device in the photo at the right, the new equipment enables Carroll officers to record incidents during which the Taser™ gun may have to be used to subdue suspects in criminal activity. Not only does it provide the impact of the stun gun, it also gives police an electronic record of the circumstances under which police have to use the gun.



Our Health System Is...

MONONGAHELA VALLEY HOSPITAL
1163 Country Club Road
Monongahela, PA 15063
(724) 258-1000
A 226-bed full-service health care facility with a more than 200-member Medical Staff representing over 50 medical specialties. Services include gynecology and prenatal services; occupational health; psychiatric care; critical and cardiac care; rehabilitation; comprehensive oncology services, including a regional cancer center for radiation therapy and chemotherapy; IMRT (Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy) and Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT), highly advanced cancer treatment methods; and an inpatient unit for treatment of cancer; cardiac catheterization and balloon angioplasty procedures; a Same Day Surgery Center; and radiology (medical imaging) services including a fixed-site Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit, CT scanning, mammography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, special procedures, PET/CT scanning, and general diagnostic radiology; a center for diabetes and endocrinology, a sleep lab, and the Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, which can accommodate up to 300 persons. With over 1,000 employees, MVH is the largest employer in the mid-Monongahela Valley and the second largest employer in Washington County.

HEALTHY DIRECTIONS
3547 Washington Avenue
Finleyville, PA 15332
724-348-6699
A health information and resource center offering a variety of services including educational programs, wellness screenings and on-site blood and urine analysis.

MON-VALE HealthPLEX
WillowPointe Plaza
Rostraver, PA 15012
724-379-5100
This facility includes:

Monongahela Valley Hospital's Center for Fitness and Health
724-379-5100
State-of-the-art fitness equipment and technology, certified fitness instructors, an indoor walking track, and a lap pool.

MVH Women's Health Center
Suite 170
724-379-1940
Mammography and ultrasound services.

MVH Outpatient Diagnostic Center
Suite 150
724-379-1930
Diagnostic radiology and a fixed-site bone density screening machine.

MVH Occupational Health Program
Suite 210
724-379-1900
Pre-employment physicals, work related injury evaluation and treatment, laboratory testing, and alcohol, drug and TB testing for employers and their employees.

Dr. Dean Ornish Program For Reversing Heart Disease
Suite 160
724-379-1960
Combining exercise, stress management and nutrition to improve cardiovascular fitness.

MVH Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Program
Suite 200
724-379-1920
Monitored exercise, behavior modification and education to reduce the risk of additional coronary problems after cardiac surgery or a heart attack.

THE RESIDENCE AT HILLTOP
Assisted Living Community
210 Route 837
Monongahela, PA 15063
724-258-8940
Providing services for individuals of all ages who require assistance in such activities as bathing, dressing, dining and medication management but who do not require skilled medical care.

MONONGAHELA MEDICAL SUPPLY COMPANY (MMSC)
Suite 1104, MPOB
1163 Country Club Road
Monongahela, PA 15063
724-258-CARE (2273)
or 1-800-952-0500
A partnership between Mon-Vale Multiphasics, Inc. and Albert Gallatin Services Corporation, MMSC rents and sells durable medical equipment and oxygen for the care of patients at home and in extended care facilities.

MON VALLEY CARE CENTER and SPARTAN MEDICAL FACILITY
200 Stoops Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063
724-310-1111
Mon Valley Care Center offers services for individuals requiring skilled/extended care and assisted living services. Spartan Medical Facility is an ambulatory surgery center and professional office complex. Both facilities are operated by Spartan Health LP, a partnership between CPSR Associates, Inc., Monongahela Valley Hospital, Inc. and Mon-Vale Non Acute Care Services, Inc.

VALE-U-HEALTH, INC.
Suite 230
Mon-Vale HealthPLEX
WillowPointe Plaza
Rostraver, PA 15012
724-379-4011
The Monongahela Valley Physician Hospital Organization, Inc. provides access to a full range of cost effective health care services and benefits through contractual arrangements with insurers, managed care organizations and employers.

VALLEY OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION (VOR)
Operating as a partnership between Orthopedic and Sports Medical Physical Therapy Associates and the MVHR subsidiary Mon-Vale Multiphasics, VOR has three sites:

VOR at Monongahela
1027 Country Club Road
Monongahela, PA 15063
724-258-6211

VOR at Speers
Vista One Professional Center
Suite 205, Charleroi, PA 15022
724-489-8111

VOR at Rostraver
Mon-Vale HealthPLEX
Suite 110, Rostraver, PA 15012
724-379-7130
Areas of specialization include Aquatic Therapy (Rostraver only), Industrial Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy.

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION
1029 Country Club Road
Suite 202, Monongahela, PA 15063
724-258-2971
The CCR provides specialized services to meet the rehabilitation needs of children, adolescents and young adults, ages birth to 21.

MVHR Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc.
1163 Country Club Road,
Monongahela, PA 15063
(724) 258-1000

Financial Highlights *June 30, 2007 and 2006*

ASSETS	2007	2006
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 13,015,096	$ 10,297,033
Short-term investments	5,538,887	5,427,666
Assets limited as to use–required for current liabilities	230,328	273,058
Accounts receivable patients (less allowance for uncollectible accounts of $2,430,485 in 2007 and $2,315,791 in 2006)	8,196,125	8,351,769
Accounts receivable other	1,401,902	1,822,694
Inventories	1,026,085	923,750
Prepaid expenses	2,103,715	2,181,759
Total current assets	31,512,138	29,277,729
Board designated Funded Depreciation	45,724,440	41,689,043
Endowment Fund	159,000	159,000
Funds held by Trustees–		
Construction Fund	1,497,650	----
Revenue Bonds–		
Debt service reserve fund	1,890,618	1,889,252
Bond funds	230,328	273,058
Total held by trustees	3,618,596	2,162,310
Total assets limited as to use	49,502,036	44,010,353
Less–assets limited as to use–required for current liabilities	(230,328)	(273,058)
Noncurrent assets limited as to use	49,271,708	43,737,295
Property, Buildings and Equipment	127,072,056	121,734,556
Less–accumulated depreciation	(83,411,092)	(78,085,120)
Property, buildings and equipment, net	43,660,964	43,649,436
Other Assets:		
Net funded pension	9,884,077	5,983,264
Unamortized debt issuance costs	335,872	268,943
Pledges receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible amounts of $44,712 in 2007 and $76,255 in 2006.	114,974	196,084
Other	2,516,759	2,519,789
Investments, other	2,865,128	2,850,486
Total other assets	15,716,810	11,818,566
TOTAL ASSETS	$140,161,620	$128,483,026

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2007	2006
Current Liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	$ 2,272,691	$ 2,326,276
Accounts payable	3,523,053	3,070,770
Accrued salaries and expenses	5,072,955	4,845,352
Estimated amounts due to third party payors	1,953,547	2,118,556
Total current liabilities	12,822,246	12,360,954
Long-Term Debt:		
Revenue bonds	17,309,621	18,142,176
Loans payable	7,624,651	5,723,901
Total long-term debt	24,934,272	23,866,077
Other long-term liabilities	4,079,388	3,695,349
Total liabilities	41,835,906	39,922,380
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted net assets	98,051,740	88,205,562
Temporarily restricted net assets	114,974	196,084
Permanently restricted net assets	159,000	159,000
Total net assets	98,325,714	88,560,646
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$140,161,620	$128,483,026

Statistical Highlights *June 30, 2007 and 2006*

	2007	2006
Admissions		
Adult & Pediatric	12,366	12,213
Births	463	472
Total Admissions	12,829	12,685
Patient Days*	58,863	57,242
Percent Occupancy*	75.5%	73.5%
Average Length of Stay*	4.6	4.5
Bed Complement		
Adult & Pediatric	226	226
Newborn Bassinets	10	10
Total Complement	236	236

	2007	2006
Ancillary Visits		
Inpatient	226,807	209,498
Outpatient	250,175	239,860
Total Ancillary Visits	476,982	449,358
Total Average Full-time Employee Equivalent	1,060	1,029
Total Employees Per Adjusted Occupied Bed	3.1	3.1

*Includes Adult, Pediatric, Observations & Newborns.